

Cleveland, Akron To Join White House Mentorship Initiative

U.S. Sen Sherrod Brown will be joined by administration officials this week in Northeast Ohio to expand an initiative that aims to provide mentoring and opportunities for boys and young men of color.

My Brother's Keeper, a program launched by President Obama in 2014, is coming to Akron and Cleveland Friday, the Avon Democrat announced in a Thursday call with reporters.

They will join Dayton, Columbus, Massillon, East Cleveland and Berea in becoming MBK communities that provide mentorship and resources. Sen. Brown said Cincinnati is also preparing to take part in the initiative.

"It's up to all of us to ensure that all our children - regardless of their zip code or the color of their skin - have the opportunity to succeed," he said. "And I hope more cities across our state will accept the My Brother's-Keeper Challenge, and work toward that goal."

Nearly 250 communities have agreed to be part of the MBK Challenge, said Broderick Johnson, chair of president's MBK Task Force. Partnerships in those communities have resulted in more than \$600 million in grants and in-kind resources.

One of the latest drives of the initiative is to link sixth and ninth graders with mentors who can provide support and encouragement to go to school and work toward graduation, he said. Cleveland will be among 30 communities in the country that will provide those mentors focused on reducing chronic absences from school.

Federal agencies also recently partnered to launch the Second Chance Pell pilot program under the MBK umbrella, Mr. Johnson said. It allows 67 colleges and universities - including Ashland University - to provide Pell Grants to 12,000 inmates.

"We're working to make sure the various departments of the federal government that are part of the MBK Task Force continue to look at the programs they have and collaborate on programs to make sure that we can better target federal resources and partnerships with the private sector so that every child in this country has a clear pathway to success, really from crib through college and career," he said during the call.

MBK Mentor Quinn Howard said the program is working in Dayton to provide positive role models for young men of color.

The starting point for Dayton's mentorship program is to help youth "see themselves as contributors to the community," he said.

"Young men in our community need to see positive role models that they can emulate," Mr. Howard said. "It is important not only to provide young men with direction and guidance but to also build nurturing relationships through listening and understanding.

Mentoring young men with basic fundamental values will hopefully provide them with a sense of purpose that can help them succeed in life."

In Cincinnati, Trump Expands On Controversies; ODP Blasts Billionaire's Business Record

Before Donald Trump took the stage in Cincinnati Wednesday evening, he was expected to use the speech to hammer Hillary Clinton over recent events pertaining to her use of a private email server.

Instead, he spent most of his time stoking further controversy over his recent comments on Saddam Hussein and doubling down in his defense of an image he tweeted that has been deemed to be anti-Semitic.

The GOP presumptive nominee did strike out at Ms. Clinton in his stream-of-consciousness remarks, deriding an FBI recommendation that she not be charged and, in a tangent, likening her to a mosquito when one landed on his lectern.

"It's a disgrace," he said. "She has got bad judgment."

But the candidate spent more than two-thirds of his more than one-hour long speech seeking to explain his own controversies in recent days, effectively fanning the media attention those remarks have received.

That includes controversy over Mr. Trump's Saturday tweet featuring a picture of Ms. Clinton against a backdrop of dollar bills with a six-pointed star containing the text "Most corrupt politician ever."

The tweet drew criticism from those contending the graphic is rooted in anti-Semitism, but Mr. Trump has since said the star is less a Star of David and more of a "sheriff's badge" and that it is the media, not his campaign, that is being prejudicial.

"(The media's) profiling," he told the Sharonville crowd. "Not us. Because why are they bringing this up?"

Mr. Trump, in his most expansive remarks on the topic yet, said he was disappointed his staff took down the tweet.

He also expanded on his prior remarks at a Tuesday rally and in interviews in which he seemingly praised Saddam Hussein for dispatching terrorists. House Speaker Paul Ryan and others have criticized the remarks.

In his comments Wednesday, Mr. Trump said it was inaccurate to characterize his comments as "praise" for the fallen dictator.

"I said Saddam Hussein is a bad man...but he did one thing well: he killed terrorists," Mr. Trump said. "I wake up and turn on the television: 'Donald Trump loves Saddam Hussein.' That's not what I said."

In a one-on-one interview with the Cincinnati Enquirer, Mr. Trump said, "That's not praising Saddam Hussein. I would say maybe it's the opposite."

The interview seemingly led a Trump spokeswoman to attempt to "dress down" the reporter for "disrespectful questioning," according to tweets of the exchange from the journalist.

"I said Trump's the GOP candidate for president and tough questions are part of the job," the reporter tweeted. "(Trump press secretary Hope Hicks) said as a candidate he deserves respect."

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a potential VP pick, also appeared at the rally, though his appearance was overshadowed in media reports by Mr. Trump's speech.

He accused the Clintons of corruption and questioned the timing of the recent FBI announcement. He also took a swipe at Gov. John Kasich, who has declined to endorse the billionaire, saying that although the governor "is a good friend of mine, it's about time he got on the Trump bandwagon."

Democrats: State Party Chairman David Pepper and Columbus City Councilmember Jaiza Page held a press conference on the steps of Columbus City Hall Thursday, responding to Mr. Trump's remarks and seeking to cast him as a failed businessman.

Mr. Pepper contrasted Mr. Trump's Cincinnati appearance with Ms. Clinton's Ohio visit last week, saying of Mr. Trump's speech "I don't even know how to characterize what a disturbing speech it was."(See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2016)

Organized by the Clinton campaign, the event was the latest in a line of attacks from Clinton supporters on Mr. Trump's business dealings in Atlantic City, which they contend includes bankruptcies, failures to pay contractors and the loss of hundreds of jobs.

Mr. Trump has promised to bring the same level of success to running the country as he has to his business ventures.

"(In Atlantic City,) Trump came out on top but the city didn't," Mr. Pepper said. "It's not just Atlantic City. This is a pattern over the years all around the country.... We just can't let Donald Trump do to Ohio, do to Columbus, what he did to Atlantic City and what he's done to innocent Americans all over the state through his business actions and scams."

Court Briefs: Buckeye Institute Files Brief In 'Golden Week' Lawsuit; Former Mayor Legally Fired From Lottery Commission Post...

The Buckeye Institute has joined the battle over whether Ohioans should have a five-day window in which they can register to vote and cast ballots on the same day.

The group has filed a brief in the U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals supporting Secretary of State Jon Husted's challenge to a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio.

The Buckeye Institute, however, challenged that finding in its brief.

"The fact that African Americans previously used Golden Week at slightly higher rates does not suggest that they will somehow stop participating under the new law. All the minority voters who voted in Golden Week are ready and able to vote in the current four-week period, and there is no evidence suggesting they will not avail themselves of that broad opportunity," it reads.

Representing The Buckeye Institute in the case is Michael Carvin, an election and appellate law expert with the global Jones Day law firm.

"Plaintiffs argue that a federal law that has been on the books for 34 years suddenly requires Ohio to extend its already generous early voting and requires Ohio to permit same-day registration. The law does no such things," Mr. Carvin said in a statement. "Nor does it invalidate the laws of the 40 states that offer fewer voting days than Ohio."

Firing: The Court of Claims has found that former Seven Hills Mayor David Bentkowski was legally terminated from his post at the Lottery Commission.

Mr. Bentkowski, who was terminated in November 2012, alleged that his supervisor and the lottery's director of human resources engaged in discriminatory practices. He claimed Elizabeth Popadiuk made discriminatory remarks about Lottery Commission employees, which she denied, the high court reported.

Court of Claims Judge Patrick McGrath found that Mr. Bentkowski failed to prove that his firing was payback for claiming the employer was engaged in discriminating practices.

Pro Bono Work: Ohio attorneys provided pro bono work in 2015 to the tune of \$10.3 million, the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation and the Ohio Supreme Court reported Thursday.

More than 4,300 attorneys reported pro bono activity in 2015, accounting for about 76,300 hours of free legal service.

Another \$406,000 was donated to organizations that provide legal services to low-income Ohioans.

"We were excited that the number of attorneys who voluntarily reported their pro bono work more than doubled from last year," OLAF's Pro Bono and Communications Director Jane Taylor said in a statement. "I believe these results reflect the Court's continuing emphasis on access to justice for all and its strong commitment to ensuring that every Ohioan can get legal help, regardless of income."

Capitol Scene: Fadel Appointed Ohio Insurance Institute President

Longtime Ohio Insurance Institute staffer Dean Fadel will serve as the association's newest president, OII Board Chairman Tim Timmel announced Thursday.

Mr. Fadel, who has been with OII since 1988 and currently serves as its vice president of government relations, will transition to the new position over the next few weeks, according to the board.

He'll replace President Dan Kelso, who recently announced retirement plans. Mr. Kelso had led the association since 1989, when it merged with the Insurance Federation of Ohio, which he had overseen since 1977.

"We're confident that the association will continue making great strides on behalf of its members, Ohio's property/casualty (P/C) insurance companies, with a focus on maintaining the stable, affordable insurance environment that Ohio consumers have experienced for decades," Mr. Timmel said of the transition.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, July 13

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

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Click the # after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Friday, July 8

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (The Code Committee will meet immediately after the full board.)

State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.

Event Planner

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser, Mohawk Golf and Country Club, 4399 S. State Route 231, Tiffin, 8:30 a.m., (8:30am Light Breakfast and Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Major Sponsor: \$2,500; Registration Sponsor: \$1,500; Scoreboard Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$600; Driving Range Sponsor: \$500; Beverage Cart Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$175; Hole Sponsor: \$150 to Friends of Bill Reineke)
Summer Fridays at the Statehouse concert, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 12 p.m., (RMT)

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Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 7/8/2016

Monday, July 11

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 466-4086), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 12

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Seitz, B., 466-8068), Finance Hearing Rm., 1 p.m.

- Confirmation hearings on governor's appointments of Asim Haque and Howard Petricoff, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Thursday, July 21

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Burke, D., 466-1731), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the <#> after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2016 5:50 PM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Ohio Report, Tuesday, September 6, 2016
Attachments: Sep6House.htm; 160906dayplan.htm; Sep6.htm



Ohio Report for Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Stakeholder Group Reconvenes To Recommend Sponsor Evaluation Updates

House District 16: Cuyahoga Councilman Faces Democratic Operative In Battle For Baker Seat

Buckeye Institute Calls For More Union Decertification Votes, Policy Matters Ohio Urges Lawmakers To Promote Unionization

State Board Looking To Help 2,000 Displaced Ohio ITT Students

Ohio Sees Drop In Obesity Rate, But Trends Show Continued Rise In Diabetes, Hypertension, Report Says

Trump, Clinton Spend Holiday Campaigning In Ohio

Democratic PAC Cancels \$3M More In Strickland Ads; Nicklaus Backs Portman

From Congress: Brown, Portman Praise Trade Ruling On Steel; Kaptur Welcomes \$2M In Housing Funds; Latta Tours OSU Radio Optics Lab...

Court Briefs: Court Rules Meigs County Charter Proposal Should Move Forward; Man Injured At Basketball Game Loses Case; Attorneys Reprimanded...

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

House

Calendars

Day Planner

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House Activity for Tuesday, September 6, 2016

INTRODUCED

HB 594 ■ **COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Roegner, K.)** Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding of recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school. Am. 3314.52

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

State Audit Committee: Ranjan Manoranjan

Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board: Rep. Boggs

Task Force for Creating Opportunities for Shared Governance on Co-Located Campuses:
Representative Schuring; Dr. Para M. Jones and Natasha Pollock

Insurance Committee: Appoint Rep. Brinkman as chair

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, September 7

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Board of Building Appeals, Ohio Department of Transportation, District Three Office, Conference Room, 906 Clark Avenue, Ashland, 8:30 a.m.
Board of Building Standards, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)
Real Estate Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 9 a.m.
Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9 a.m. (Agriculture Development Committee)
Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, 50 West Broad Street - Suite 1500, Columbus, 10 a.m.
State Personnel Board of Review, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, County Club at Muirfield Village, 8715 Muirfield Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$1,000 Total Contribution. Golfers pay for their own golf. Please make separate checks for \$500 each payable to Citizens for Bill Beagle & Peterson for Good Government)
House Democrats legislative agenda news conference, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.
Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) and Rep. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) fundraiser, Due Amici, 65 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Host: \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan and/or Citizens for McColley)
Release of August casino revenue figures, 1:30 p.m.
Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Victory's, 543 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,500, Patron: \$1,000 to Committee for Jim Hughes)

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Volume #85, Report #172 – Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Stakeholder Group Reconvenes To Recommend Sponsor Evaluation Updates

A group of charter school sponsors who previously worked to update the process by which they are evaluated has reunited to offer new recommendations as the Ohio Department of Education heads back to the drawing board.

Sponsors have been raising concerns about a change in evaluation practices since they were introduced last year, but the time is ripe for them to step in and make their voices heard following the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review's shelving of a rule dealing with the compliance portion of the reviews.

St. Aloysius representative Dave Cash said he recently reconvened a stakeholder group that had been defunct for the past three years, hoping that JCARR's decision could provide an opportunity for members to provide feedback and offer suggestions on the evaluations.

JCARR leaders have since said they expect the ODE to present an updated rule and the Common Sense Initiative has asked the agency to collect additional public comments.

"We anticipated JCARR would send the rule back and get stakeholder feedback that they did not get the first time. Who better to try to provide some of that stakeholder input than the ones who were involved in the evaluation to begin with?" Mr. Cash said in an interview.

"We've put a significant amount of resources into trying to put an evaluation tool together that was then not finished out and then not implemented well and it all fell apart. We felt it was our obligation to try to step up and offer recommendations to fix it."

The group, which includes representatives from the Ohio Association of Charter School Authorizers, Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools, Reynoldsburg City Schools, and the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, originally began meeting in 2012.

At that time, members - who were also joined by representatives of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers and ODE employees - spent a year and a half crafting a process to measure sponsor compliance and piloting it throughout the state.

Their recommendations on compliance became part of the previous sponsor evaluation that was never fully implemented and was ultimately revamped because it came to light that sponsor ratings were miscalculated by then-Office of School Choice Director David Hansen.

Sticking with some of the same premises as the last time they were active, the group is also taking into consideration new laws as it drafts updated recommendations, some of which have already been presented to CSI and ODE, Mr. Cash said.

Earlier this week, the group created a process and timeline for the compliance portion of the evaluation. It would require the validation of just 10% of the items on the compliance list, but those items would be selected at random.

The group has also suggested that a number of items be removed from the list, the OCQE's Beth Lear said. Of the 319 items schools were required to verify compliance with, the group found that 15 were not required under law, 12 required sponsors to confirm a negative and 78 were documents to which ODE already has access.

Their recommendations were submitted the same day Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria sent the State Board of Education a memo stating that the agency would revert back to the current rule for the compliance portion of the reviews and continuing working on the new proposal. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 1, 2016)

Under those compliance guidelines, ODE would examine whether all rules and laws are being met at just 10% of sponsors' schools as opposed to all of them.

Mr. Cash said that system isn't preferable because sponsors only have to certify that a number of the compliance items are being met.

Allowing sponsors to verify information without a system in place to check for validity puts the state back in the same position it was in when it asked the stakeholder group to make recommendations for a new evaluation process in 2012, he said.

"We wanted to make sure who was performing well and who was not performing well. We wanted tools so we could show we were doing the work we said we were doing," he said, adding that the previous evaluation system simply required sponsors to tell the agency whether they were meeting standards or not.

Mr. Cash said ODE has not responded to the new recommendations or voiced interest in rejoining the conversation.

"They've got to be a partner with us in this work," Mr. Cash said. "They're responsible for the Ohio system of public education and there are 400 charter schools and 120,000 students (that attend them) - that's a significant portion of Ohio's public education system and we need ODE to be partner with us on that so we can keep doing good work."

Ms. Lear said it's also important for ODE to work with sponsors on evaluation system updates because the agency also sponsors a number of charter schools.

"It doesn't really look good for one sponsor to be setting the rules for all sponsors," she said in an interview.

ODE's Brittany Halpin said, "We've received the letter and we always appreciate the input of our stakeholders."

Up next, the group said it plans to offer suggestions for changing the quality and compliance portions of the evaluations following a Sept. 12 meeting.

Mr. Cash said the latest academic portion of the review is concerning because it's centered on report card scores of schools in sponsors' portfolios, despite the fact that sponsors do not have the ability to make curriculum decisions or choose school teachers and leaders.

"All I can do as a sponsor is say, 'You promised you were going to have a school that was going to perform at this level and so far you're not getting there.' I don't have the ability to go ahead make a direct impact on their performance," he said.

House District 16: Cuyahoga Councilman Faces Democratic Operative In Battle For Baker Seat

The race to replace term-limited Rep. Nan Baker (R-Westlake) for a seat in suburban Cleveland pits a Republican veteran of local government against a young native of the area with experience working in state and national politics.

Republican nominee Dave Greenspan, 51, of Westlake, is a member of Cuyahoga County Council who moved to Ohio in 2007 from the Atlanta area. He faces Democrat Tommy Greene, 28, a Bay Village native who is the son of a steelworker and a teacher's aide.

Neither candidate faced a primary challenge in the district, which leans Republican.

Mr. Greenspan touted his experience in local government and his ability to work across the aisle. A native of New Jersey who's lived in a number of states and attended Troy University in Alabama, he served on the inaugural city council in Sandy Springs, Ga., when the city was incorporated in 2005. After moving to the Cleveland area in 2007, he was elected to the first Cuyahoga County Council in 2010.

He immediately focused on ethics, chairing the council's ethics committee, he said.

"Coming into a new government, especially one coming out of such deep-rooted corruption, I felt it was very important that the residents and businesses of Cuyahoga County and Northeast Ohio knew that their government was going to be working for them," he said in an interview.

The married father of three doesn't just start up local governments. He has an accounting degree and has spent much of his career as a chief financial officer for a number of companies, mostly startup ventures. He's also been the chief operating officer for the PGA Tour radio network.

He now runs a small business, Green Elk Consulting Services, which provides financial and other advice to startup and turnaround businesses.

Mr. Greene is a graduate of Ohio University who has worked for Equality Ohio and interned for Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon). He now works in business development for North Water Partners, a company in the Ohio City area of Cleveland.

The Democrat grew up in Westlake and Bay Village. He said part of the reason he became interested in politics was because his father lost his job when the steel mill where he worked closed in 2001. Following that, his father took him to a rally that included Sen. Brown and former U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich.

"That's when I realized that when families are going through a hard time, they turn to their elected officials not for a handout or for them to answer all of their problems, but to be standing with them when things are going wrong and to be able to provide solutions to make the families a little bit stronger in the future," Mr. Greene said in an interview.

Families, through jobs and education policy, will be a focus for Mr. Greene.

"I kind of view my role as being able to strengthen Ohio's families," he said. "There's a handful of ways we can do that," including more oversight of charter schools. Education funding, particularly for public schools, will be a priority, he said.

He also said he wanted to see more infrastructure development, including pushes for Ohio to develop more clean energy products. Toledo could build more solar panels, for example, he said.

"We have a proud manufacturing history and Ohio has to be a place where we build things," he said. "We can't just be a 100% service sector economy. We have to be a manufacturing state in Ohio."

Mr. Greenspan said he has focused on a wide variety of issues during his time in public office, and believes a comprehensive approach is important. Education and drug problems are both tied to jobs.

A priority for the state, he said, is to develop a workforce of people who are able to do jobs and pass drug tests.

"We have to continue to develop what I refer to as a competent workforce. I think we all can agree that the state is continuing to move the needle in a positive direction toward workforce development," he said, but the work needs to continue.

He said he wants to see a "holistic, total" approach to the economy, one that includes focusing on education to produce good workers, luring in a wide variety of industries, and matching qualified workers with open positions.

"If you look at it in its totality, if you look at it as one big direction to move our state, it's my belief that all of those issues move us in a positive direction," he said.

"Unless you've lived this, unless you've served at the city level, unless you've served at the county level, it's hard to understand how these issues come together," he said.

Mr. Greene, who is openly gay, said nondiscrimination is also an economic development issue. When he worked for Equality Ohio, he said, one of his duties was to talk to executives about the need for nondiscrimination laws in order to recruit talented workers from other parts of the country.

"If Ohio is going to be open for business, we need to be open for talent," he said.

Mr. Greene said his campaign team has been organized and working in the community to spread his message.

"I'm out there every day talking to voters about how we're going to move our state forward," he said.

"I believe regular working families need an advocate in Columbus," he added.

Mr. Greenspan said he believes his experience as an elected official - particularly in a county council district that spans the same cities as the legislative district - sets him apart. He said he is also stressing his willingness to work across the aisle to get things done.

"We have to be able to all work together, collectively, to create the environment in our state to move in the right direction," he said.

His campaign has knocked on more than 27,000 doors already, he said.

"I've represented this district for nearly six years. I believe that I understand the opportunities and the challenges of the district," he said.

Buckeye Institute Calls For More Union Decertification Votes, Policy Matters Ohio Urges Lawmakers To Promote Unionization

In the wake of the Labor Day holiday, two groups offered competing visions on how to improve the lives of working Ohioans.

In a report released by the Buckeye Institute, the group proposed that Ohio lawmakers make it easier for state and local government employees to decertify their unions. Policy Matters Ohio, meanwhile, released a report calling for lawmakers to make it easier to join and form unions.

According to the Buckeye Institute's report, "One Man, One Vote, One Time? Re-election Votes Hold Unions Accountable to Their Members," there are more than 3,100 bargaining units covering about 300,000 state and local government employees across Ohio. However, most of those employees have had no say in their representation, it said.

"Ohio makes it very difficult for workers to have a voice in their unions," Robert Alt, Buckeye's president and CEO, said in a statement. "Under current law, the ability for union workers to hold an election is far more cumbersome than how we conduct our elections for public officials. And elections keep people accountable."

In the past three years, just 14 validly submitted decertification petitions have been submitted to the Employment Relations Board. Unions prevailed in three of those re-election efforts, the report found.

The report, however, said the decertification process is a cumbersome one, providing a 30-day window in which 50% of government employees in a bargaining unit need to sign a petition to trigger a vote.

"Just as voters hold their public officials accountable so, too, should workers be able to call for better representation," Rea Hederman Jr., executive vice president of The Buckeye Institute, said. "Ohio should follow the lead of other states by requiring their government unions to regularly stand for re-election, which will only improve their responsiveness to member needs."

The report goes on to list several complaints unionized employees have with their bargaining units, including dues spent on political activities, leaders' salaries and "insufficient" leadership elections.

"Union members should have the freedom to regularly decide whether to remain unionized. Such re-election votes would make unions more accountable to their members," the report concludes. "They would force union leaders to serve their members' interests instead of pursuing their own priorities. Workers deserve the ability to hold their union regularly accountable. Meaningful representation does not mean one man, one vote, one time."

But in its report, "Still struggling: State of Working Ohio 2016," Policy Matters Ohio says lawmakers should be promoting unionization.

Unionized workers in Ohio made about \$4 more per hour than their non-unionized counterparts in 2015, according to the report.

"Unions improve wages but Ohio's legislators and governor have often taken steps to weaken unions and reduce the number of workers who can get the protection, training and compensation benefits that come with being a member of a labor union. In order to broaden unionization in Ohio, the state should reject the misnamed 'right-to-work' initiative - states that take this approach end up with lower wages," the report reads

"Ohio should also allow home health workers and childcare workers to become part of a union - two particularly important and low-wage occupations that were once promised the right to organize into unions. For both groups, Gov. Kasich has eliminated the right to join a union and bargain collectively."

The report goes on to state that unions can reduce inequality for black and female workers. It found that black unionized workers make \$4.31 more per hour than their non-unionized counterparts while women in unions make \$3.91 more per hour.

"Ensuring that more workers can join unions will better spread the benefits of unionization," the report states.

State Board Looking To Help 2,000 Displaced Ohio ITT Students

ITT Technical Institute's parent company announced Tuesday it is pulling the plug on its 137 campuses across the country, officially displacing about 2,000 Ohio students and an unknown number of employees.

Left to help fill in the gap is the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools, which is stepping in to ensure displaced students aren't left behind by the closure of the Indiana-based company that served nearly 45,000 students in 38 states.

"This is going to be a difficult process I'm sure, but we'll continue to work with the students," Board Executive Director John Ware said in an interview.

The closure had been expected ever since the federal government late last month unveiled an array of penalties, including banning the school from enrolling students with federal financial aid, after the school was found to be out of compliance with accreditation criteria.

The company on Tuesday confirmed that after assessing its options, the sanctions were deemed a death knell.

"It is with profound regret that we must report that ITT Educational Services, Inc. will discontinue academic operations at all of its ITT Technical Institutes permanently after approximately 50 years of continuous service," the company announced in a press release.

"With what we believe is a complete disregard by the U.S. Department of Education for due process to the company, hundreds of thousands of current students and alumni and more than 8,000 employees will be negatively affected."

As of Tuesday, the company had already eliminated the "overwhelming majority" of its employees and said remaining staff members are prioritizing helping displaced students determine their options.

The state board has been working on contingency plans for the students enrolled at ITT's nine Ohio campuses since the August penalties were announced, Mr. Ware said. The fact that those campuses are spread out across all corners of the state poses a particular challenge, he added.

He said the board has been working to enlist other schools for teach-out agreements in which case the school would agree to accept displaced students' ITT credits and any related financial aid. The board will be emailing a list of those schools to students this week, he said.

"Sometimes it depends on how far along in their program they are and what program they are in so we'll have to figure that out for each student - what they need to do," he said.

Alternately, he said, the board will work to connect students unable to continue their program elsewhere with the U.S. Department of Education where they could receive a loan discharge.

"We'll work with ITT to make sure students have access to their transcripts and records and anything like that the students would need going forward," Mr. Ware said. "We've already had communication about this and I know ITT was going to send an email with some of this information out to their students sometime today."

ITT's closure is the latest result of a crackdown of the federal government on for-profit colleges, although Mr. Ware said most previous closures "have been more orderly than this."

"It's been a painful process," he said.

Among the penalties levied against ITT was a requirement the company increase its existing surety from \$94 million to more than \$240 million - or 40% of all Title IV aid the school received in 2015 payable in full. The company pointed to that stipulation specifically as to why it is unable to continue operations.

"We believe the government's action was inappropriate and unconstitutional, however, with the ITT Technical Institutes ceasing operations, it will now likely rest on other parties to understand these reprehensible actions and to take action to attempt to prevent this from happening again," the company said.

In a message to ITT students, U.S. Education Secretary John King acknowledged the news will have a "deeply personal" impact on affected students and, vowing to support students as they work through their options, encouraged students to not give up on their education.

Ohio Sees Drop In Obesity Rate, But Trends Show Continued Rise In Diabetes, Hypertension, Report Says

Ohio was one of four states that saw its obesity rate fall in 2015, according to a report from the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Buckeye State ranked 26th in the U.S. with an adult obesity rate of 29.8%. That's down from 32.6% a year earlier.

Although Ohio saw a drop year-over-year, the rate was still well above what it was a decade earlier, when 24.9% of Ohio adults suffered from obesity, according to the report. In 1995, the rate was 16.1%.

The drop in Ohio and three other states - Minnesota, Montana and New York - was the first time in the last decade that any states experienced decreases except for Washington, D.C., in 2010.

Louisiana had the highest rate of obesity at 36.2%, while Colorado had the lowest at 20.2%.

Ohio had the 14th highest rate of obesity among children ages 10-17, at 17.4%, and was 35th in obesity for children ages 2-4 from low-income families, with 12.4%.

The report also cited a number of obesity-related health issues. Ohio was 17th in adult diabetes, with 11% of adults suffering from the disease. That number was down from a year before, but the overall trend remains upward - Ohio is expected to go from just over 1 million cases of diabetes in 2010 to nearly 1.6 million in 2030 at its current pace.

Even more Ohio adults suffer from hypertension. Ohio was 13th in that category, with 34.3% of adults having the condition. The number of cases is expected to rise from 2.3 million in 2010 to nearly 3.1 million in 2030 at its current pace.

Cases of heart disease and obesity-related cancer are both expected to rise dramatically over the next two decades, the report said, while arthritis cases are likely to decrease.

The State Health Assessment cited obesity among the chronic conditions that pose serious health risks to the state. That report cited links between obesity and other chronic conditions, and noted the racial and geographic disparities among them. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 22, 2016)

The SHA found obesity to be a problem cited by public health experts in all areas of the state and among a wide variety of different groups. The report cited nutrition and physical activity as possible contributing factors and opportunities for improvement.

"Although Ohio's high prevalence of obesity and diabetes indicate that much more progress is needed on physical activity, this assessment finds that Ohio has some strengths in this area," the SHA said. "First, the percent of Ohio adults reporting no leisure-time physical activity declined from 2013 to 2014 and met the Healthy People 2020 target. Second, regional forum participants in most areas of the state identified their active living environments as a characteristic that made them proud of their

community, and all regions identified a positive active living environment as one of the most important characteristics of a healthy county or region."

The Trust for America's Health report on obesity also found racial disparities in obesity. Among white Ohioans, the rate of obesity was 30.5%, while it was 37.1% among black Ohioans.

The gap was narrow between men and women, with 30.5% of men and 29.7% of women. For different age groups, it was wider, with the obesity rate among Ohioans 45-64 at 36.3%, compared to 29% for those 65 and older, 27.9% for those 26 to 44 and 17.8% for those 18-25.

Dana Schmersal, a spokeswoman for Voices for Ohio's Children, said policymakers should continue to work on programs to improve childhood nutrition.

"We are very glad to see the downward trend for childhood obesity rates in Ohio," she said in an email. "Child nutrition, however, remains a key issue across the state as both obesity and food insecurity impact far too many Ohio families, leaving our state to face the expensive cognitive, behavioral, educational, economic and health consequences that follow. Of course, it is not enough to make food more accessible and nutritious - we must work with schools, child care providers, and communities to ensure that meals are consistent with a healthier lifestyle supported by comprehensive health and physical education inside and outside of the classroom."

Trump, Clinton Spend Holiday Campaigning In Ohio

GOP nominee Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton ventured back to the Buckeye State Monday as they continued to court voters.

Ms. Clinton spoke at a Cleveland rally, where she and vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine stressed the importance of the state in the electoral landscape.

"You're used to this," Sen. Kaine told Ohio voters, saying the election has entered the "home stretch."

"You're used to the fact that you're one of the two or three most important states in any presidential election going back since there were presidential elections," he said.

In her remarks to the crowd, Ms. Clinton again questioned Mr. Trump's suitability for the office of president. She also touted a newly announced book, written by herself and Sen. Kaine, called "Stronger Together" that will showcase their plan for the future.

"We are stronger together, and that is in stark contrast to Donald Trump," she said. "When he says, 'I alone can fix it,' he doesn't understand how America works."

Mr. Trump that same day participated in a labor roundtable Monday at a Brook Park American Legion post. Media access was limited at the event, which was only first announced that morning.

"I was happy to show Mr. Trump first-hand some of the challenges that we have faced in Northeast Ohio, with local plants shutting down and jobs leaving for overseas," Brook Park Mayor Tom Coyne said in a statement released by the campaign. "Mr. Trump speaks our language, I think he's more comfortable talking to labor and working class people than he is talking to bankers, and it shows."

Mr. Trump then attended the Canfield Fair, while at the same time Clinton surrogates launched attacks seeking to undermine Mr. Trump's attempt to draw blue-collar support.

"Hillary Clinton knows that America is already great because of your hard work, because of your values, your integrity," AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka told those at the fair. "She knows that our economy is strongest when we can band together and negotiate for better wages, better benefits and better working conditions. She wants to rewrite the rules of the economy so that working people win and not just billionaires, like Donald Trump, win."

The Clinton campaign on Tuesday evening is scheduled to open its latest organizing office, this one in Delaware County. The campaign has launched more than three dozen such offices across the state.

Mr. Trump, meanwhile, rated two points above Ms. Clinton in a Tuesday national poll from CNN/ORC. Mr. Trump earned 45% to Ms. Clinton's 43%, putting the pair at a statistical tie when accounting for the margin of error.

Libertarian Gary Johnson and Green Party candidate Jill Stein earned 7% and 2% respectively in that survey.

Democratic PAC Cancels \$3M More In Strickland Ads; Nicklaus Backs Portman

A national super PAC has canceled \$3 million worth of additional ads it planned to air supporting U.S. Senate candidate Ted Strickland.

The Senate Majority PAC announced the additional cuts Tuesday - the second such reduction the group has made in the last month. A spokesman said the group was seeking to "maximize resources."

The group had already scrapped ads set for later this month. But the additional cuts for ads previously set to air between Sept. 20-Oct. 10 mean the PAC will have no pro-Strickland advertising on Ohio airwaves until October at the earliest.

Strickland campaign spokesman David Bergstein in a statement downplayed the move, which is seen as the latest sign of Mr. Strickland losing ground to his opponent U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, saying "there's still a lot of race left to run."

"We just recently launched our paid media campaign, the national environment is rapidly deteriorating around Portman, he's facing a daily firestorm about his continued support for Trump - and Portman's small, weak field operation can't compete with the Ohio Democratic Party's coordinated field campaign which has hundreds of organizers and volunteers across the state working to elect Ted, Secretary Clinton and Democrats at every level," Mr. Bergstein said.

"Ted's going to do what he does best: campaign vigorously across Ohio, talking about the central contrast in this race - he's fighting for working people because that where he comes from and that's who he cares about, while Senator Portman is looking out for his rich and powerful friends," he continued.

The PAC had already cancelled about \$191,000 worth of ads previously intended to run between Sept. 6-19. At the same time, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee announced it was pushing back the launch of its own ads by one week, cancelling about \$500,000 in reserved airtime in September and moving that money to support the campaign's own advertising. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 30, 2016)

The network run by brothers and GOP donors Charles and David Koch then announced they had cancelled pro-Portman ads to the tune of \$2.1 million. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 31, 2016)

The Ohio Democratic Party and U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) came to the former governor's defense Tuesday at a press conference blasting Sen. Portman for "turning his back" on the auto industry.

"It's the central contrast in this race: Ted is fighting for Ohio's working families, while Sen. Portman is pushing the agenda of his rich and powerful friends in Washington," Rep. Ryan said. "We need someone who represents our values. It's pretty simple - working families need Ted Strickland in the U.S. Senate."

Mr. Strickland did land the endorsement of the Sierra Club Tuesday, which in turn drew the ire of the Ohio Coal Association which released a statement criticizing Mr. Strickland's stance on coal.

Sen. Portman, meanwhile, enlisted the help of famed golfer Jack Nicklaus with a new ad that is part of a \$15 million ad campaign that has already begun to air.

"Rob is the real deal, he's making a difference in standing up for American manufacturing, and he's fighting to strengthen our military to keep us safe. Rob Portman is Ohio's champion," Mr. Nicklaus says in the ad.

The Portman campaign used the Ohio State University football opener Saturday and a related Snapchat filter to expand its outreach to students and fans.

"We are proud to work with our impressive Students for Portman group, which is organized on more than 30 campuses and has helped us contact more than 3.5 million targeted voters," Portman campaign spokeswoman Michawn Rich said. "The coalition is helping ensure Rob's message of pro-growth policies for better wages and more jobs reaches students across Ohio during this campaign."

From Congress: Brown, Portman Praise Trade Ruling On Steel; Kaptur Welcomes \$2M In Housing Funds; Latta Tours OSU Radio Optics Lab...

Ohio's U.S. senators praised a recent International Trade Commission finding that the country's steel industry has been hurt by cold-rolled steel imports from other countries.

The ITC determined imports from Brazil, India, South Korea and the United Kingdom have all played a role in harming the industry, but stopped short of listing Russia as having engaged in unfair trade practices.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) both welcomed the ITC's determination, with Sen. Portman in a statement calling the situation facing Ohio's steelworkers a "crisis."

"Nearly 1,500 Ohio steelworkers were laid off last year through no fault of their own," Sen. Portman said. "Today the ITC recognized exactly what I told them: that unfair, dishonest practices from competitors in these countries are hurting our communities. Our work is far from over, but today's ruling is another step in leveling the playing field, and it is another win for Ohio steelworkers."

Sen. Brown said unfair trade practices are threatening the stability of that and other industries. He had previously advocated that Russia be included in the ITC investigation.

"When other countries don't play by the rules, the U.S. government must take action to protect American manufacturers," Sen. Brown said. "It's disappointing that the ITC did not recognize Russia's unfair trade practices, but the enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duties on cold-rolled steel imports from Brazil, India, South Korea, and the United Kingdom is a good step forward in providing the steel industry with the relief it needs."

In other trade news, Sen. Portman last week criticized the European Union's ruling that Apple owes \$14 billion in back taxes, saying the ruling highlights the need for international tax reform.

"Retroactive taxes not based in the rule of law are an attack on all U.S. companies doing business globally," the senator said. "The Commission is blatantly attempting to take advantage of the antiquated U.S. international tax system, and at the end of the day, it's

U.S. taxpayers footing the bill. This decision is another indicator of the urgent need for international tax reform."

Housing: U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) applauded the recent award of more than \$2.1 million toward Cuyahoga County homeless veteran support.

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the award to Cleveland-based Frontline Service to support "Operation Cleveland Home Front," a program that provides transitional housing to veterans and their families.

"No one who has served our country with dignity and honor should face the indignity of being without adequate shelter," Rep. Kaptur said, adding that the program "offers veterans and their families a helping hand through transitional, temporary housing, a chance that offers hope and the prospects of a second chance to make a better life for themselves and their families. These brave men and women served our country, and this support program is our service in return."

Technology: U.S. Rep. Bob Latta (R-Bowling Green) praised Ohio State University's ElectroScience Lab during a recent tour of the facility. The lab is one of the largest radio frequency optics research laboratories in the world.

"The work they are doing at the ElectroScience Lab is pushing the limits in advancing technology," Rep. Latta said. "The research that is being conducted will pay countless dividends in the wireless communication and radio frequency fields."

Piketon: Sens. Brown and Portman continue their efforts to secure funding for the ongoing cleanup of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

The two earlier this month asked Senate appropriators to include funding for the project in any short-term continuing resolution considered by the upper chamber. Continued funding for the effort, they said, is in jeopardy because the 2017 Energy and Water Appropriations bill passed by the Senate, which includes the funding, has not yet received House action.

"Portsmouth's D&D efforts are an integral part of the Department of Energy's commitment to the people of southern Ohio," the pair wrote to the Senate Appropriations Committee. "Continued operations at the present level are an essential part of that commitment."

Backpage: Sen. Portman chalked up another victory in lawmakers' ongoing legal proceedings against Backpage.com.

Sen. Portman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) as leaders of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations have long been focused on an uncooperative Backpage in their attempt to determine the website's role in facilitating sex trafficking.

In the latest development, the D.C. Circuit Court denied Backpage's request for a stay, meaning the company must now turn over all documents that have been subpoenaed to the committee within 10 days.

"Today's ruling is a major step forward in our efforts to stop the scourge of online human trafficking and stand up for its thousands of innocent victims across the United States," Sen. Portman said. "With this decision, we look forward to examining the subpoenaed documents that Backpage has withheld. We are committed to continuing our bipartisan investigation and ensuring that our laws effectively protect the most vulnerable from sex traffickers and businesses that aid them."

Coal: Sen. Brown welcomed more than \$1 million in federal relief funding to Ohio miners and their families that have experienced layoffs.

The Department of Labor announced the funding to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services this month to fund reemployment efforts for those workers. The award brings Ohio's total federal funding to \$2 million, including a \$916,250 grant from 2015.

"The changing coal economy has put some workers out of a job through no fault of their own," Sen. Brown said. "This grant will give Ohio the tools to continue its support for displaced workers and help them get back on their feet."

Drugs: Sen. Portman joined Walgreens workers as they unveiled 18 drug take-back kiosks for their Ohio stores.

In a Toledo press conference, the lawmaker voiced his support for the effort announced in February, which will culminate in the kiosks being placed in 500 of the chain's stores across the country.

"Addiction to prescription painkillers has reached epidemic levels in Ohio and across the country," Sen. Portman said. "Fighting back against this epidemic will require all of us working together at the federal, state, and local community level."

Women's Summit: Sen. Brown announced the second annual Women's Leadership Summit will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Global Center for Health Innovation in Cleveland. For more information and a list of speakers visit the event's website.

"Ohio women are achieving remarkable things, and we must build on their success so all women can have an opportunity to succeed," Sen. Brown said. "The Women's Leadership Summit aims to celebrate the accomplishments of women and highlight strategies for overcoming obstacles to success."

Court Briefs: Court Rules Meigs County Charter Proposal Should Move Forward; Man Injured At Basketball Game Loses Case; Attorneys Reprimanded...

Voters in Meigs County could soon have the opportunity to change their form of government.

The Ohio Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the county's board of commissioners erred by not approving a resolution to place a charter amendment on the ballot in 2015.

The 4-3 per curiam decision reverses a Fourth District Court of Appeals ruling.

The commissioners received a letter from the board of elections on July 2, 2015 stating that a petition filed by Meigs County Home Rule Committee had a sufficient number of valid signatures to be placed on the November ballot, the court reported.

However, the commissioners in a July 9 letter back to the board said the July 2 letter was incomplete and lacked certain information. In a special meeting on July 14, the commissioners failed to certify the issue for the ballot because they said the board of elections failed to meet the deadline to submit a report at least 120 days prior to the election.

"But even if the first letter were insufficient, when the board of elections ultimately certifies the validity of a petition and the delay was not the fault of the initiative's supporters, a writ of mandamus will issue to place the matter on the ballot. Any other result would be unfair and thwart the constitutional right of initiative," the court wrote in its decision.

Citing a 2015 case in which Secretary of State Jon Husted invalidated a county charter initiative on the grounds that the proponents did not propose a form of county government, the commissioners argued that committee also failed to propose a form of county government.

However, the court found that is a determination for Secretary Husted to make.

"We will not intrude into the process before the secretary has had a chance to exercise his discretion," the majority wrote.

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor and Justices Judith Ann Lanzinger, Judith French and Bill O'Neill constituted the majority.

Justices Paul Pfeiffer and Sharon Kennedy joined a dissenting opinion in which Justice Terrence O'Donnell sided with the appellate court.

Injury: A man who was injured as he attempted to sit in a seat that broke and dropped to the ground at a University of Akron basketball game will receive no financial compensation, the Court of Claims ruled.

The court found that Raymond Williams failed to prove that the university did not exercise ordinary or reasonable care and denied his claim for \$10,000 in damages.

Mr. Williams claimed the fall resulted in more than \$5,000 in medical bills, the Ohio Supreme Court reported.

However, a university investigation found that Mr. Williams told a responding usher and supervisor that he did not fall because he caught himself as the chair broke and that he declined medical attention at the time.

Reprimands: The Ohio Supreme Court has issued three public reprimands:

- Justin E. Fernandez of Cincinnati for allegedly neglecting a client's legal matter and the improper use of an out-of-state company to provide paralegal and paraprofessional services.
- Steven B. Beranek of Medina for allegedly failing to inform his clients that he did not have professional liability coverage.
- Patrick L. Clifton of Crestview Hills, Kentucky for allegedly violating the rule that prohibits a lawyer from knowingly making a false statement to a tribunal and engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

Conviction: The Bureau of Workers' Compensation announced the conviction of a man a Toledo man who used a fake identity to collect benefits.

David Abitua, 51, pleaded guilty Aug. 18 in Franklin County Common Pleas Court to one fifth-degree felony count of workers' compensation fraud, according to BWC.

"If you try to cheat the workers' compensation system, even while hiding under a false identity, we will find you and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law," Sarah Morrison, Administrator/CEO for the BWC, said in a statement. "Workers' compensation fraud raises costs for everyone in the system and diverts resources needed for injured workers and making Ohio workplaces safer."

Using a false Social Security number and the alias of Jose L. Vasquez, Mr. Abitua collected injured workers' benefits from November 2009 until October 2012.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, September 8

Broadcast Educational Media Commission, 2470 North Star Road, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Children's Trust Fund, 77 South High Street, 13th Floor East Conference Room, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, September 7

House Democrats legislative agenda news conference, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 11 a.m.

Release of August casino revenue figures, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 11

Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield) fundraiser, Echo Ridge Farm, 4674 Hominy Ridge Rd., Springfield, 2 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Partner: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Kyle Koehler)

Thursday, September 29

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Keller residence, 8325 Princeton Road, Liberty Twp., 6 p.m., (\$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Chair | \$250 Event Sponsor | \$100 Individual to Friends of Bill Coley)

Monday, October 10

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, K-12 Gallery and TEJAS, 341 S Jefferson St., Dayton, 5 p.m., (Special Guest: Sen. Obhof. \$2,500 Michelangelo Sponsor | \$1,000 Van Gogh Sponsor | \$500 Picasso Sponsor | \$150 per Couple | \$100 per Individual to Citizens for Lehner)

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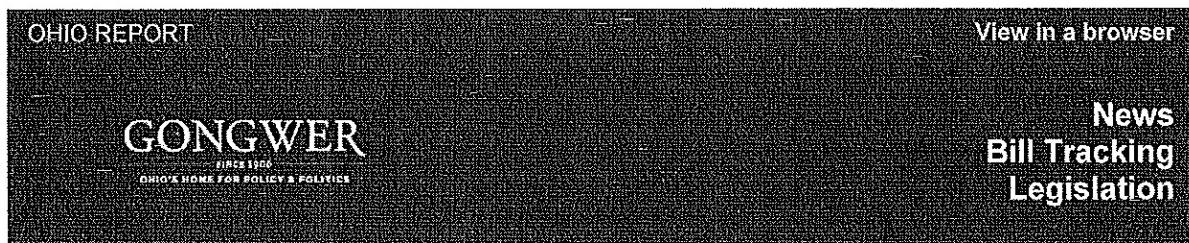
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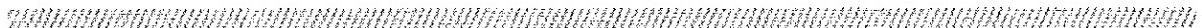
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OHIO REPORT TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22



Senate Hears Mixed Review Of Energy Freeze Bill; Early December Committee Vote Eyed

Senate Panel Takes Up Ignition Interlock Device Measure

Proponents Urge Senate Support For Ohio EPA Updates

Committee Chair Raises Concerns About Insurance Bill

Medical Board Closes Investigation Into Dayton Abortion Clinic

Buckeye Institute Touts Charity Care; OSMA Launches Opioid Campaign; Innovation Ohio Eyes Food Insecurity

Famers Union Prices Thanksgiving Dinner; AG Warns On Holiday Shopping Scams; DSW Sales Up

Governor's Appointment

Attorney General's Opinion

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Senate Committee Hearings

Energy & Natural Resources

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Senate Activity for Tuesday, November 22, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 369 ■ **ROAD NAMING** (Patton, T., Manning, G.) To designate a portion of Interstate Route 90 in Cuyahoga County as the "Patrol Trooper Kenneth Velez Memorial Highway." Am. 5534.46

SB 370 ■ **LICENSE PLATE** (Patton, T.) To create the "University of Notre Dame" license plate. Am. 4501.21 and to enact section 4503.514

SB 371 ■ **COUNTY PROSECUTORS** (Thomas, C.) To prohibit prosecuting attorneys of counties with a population of 400,001 or more from engaging in the private practice of law. Am. 309.02 and 325.11

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Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 11/23/2016

Monday, November 28

House Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474), Rm. 119, 10:30 a.m.
Senate Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538), Finance Hearing Rm., 2 p.m.

- SB 136 SCHOOL SECLUSION (Tavares, C.) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 346 SCHOOL YEAR (Manning, G.) To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 89 MEDICAID SCHOOL PROGRAM (DeVitis, T.) Regarding the Medicaid School Program. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 383 FINANCIAL LITERACY (Hagan, C., McColley, R.) To require one-half unit of economic and financial literacy in the high school social studies curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each state institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 85 ABUSE PREVENTION (Ramos, D., Hagan, C.) With respect to age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Tuesday, November 29

House State Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Maag, R., 644-6023), Rm. 113, 9 a.m.

- SB 227 ATTORNEY GENERAL (Bacon, K.) To make various changes to the laws governing the duties and functions of the Attorney General. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)
- House Agriculture & Rural Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Hill, B., 644-6014), Rm. 116, 9 a.m.
- HR 214 PHOSPHORUS AGREEMENT (Sheehy, M., Fedor, T.) To encourage support for the agreement between Ontario, Michigan and Ohio regarding the reduction of phosphorus in the western basin of Lake Erie. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 566 NURSERY STOCK (Ramos, D.) To prohibit the labeling and advertising of nursery stock as pollinator beneficial under specified conditions (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- House Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 466-6711), Rm. 017, 9 a.m.
- HB 498 STUDENT EXPULSIONS (Kunze, S.) With respect to the expulsion of a student from a school district, community school, or STEM school for communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

- HB 372 **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (Phillips, D.)** To require city, exempted village, and local school districts to employ, for each 1,000 students, at least five full-time equivalent educational service personnel in specified areas. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.
- SB 27 **FIREFIGHTER CANCER (Patton, T.)** To provide that a firefighter who is disabled as a result of specified types of cancer is presumed for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund to have incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)
- HB 394 **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (Sears, B.)** To temporarily change the taxable wage base under Ohio's Unemployment Compensation Law, to remove dependency classes for unemployment compensation benefit eligibility, to temporarily freeze automatic increases for weekly unemployment compensation benefit amounts, to reduce the number of weeks for which an individual may receive unemployment compensation benefits, to abolish the Unemployment Compensation Advisory Council, and to make other changes to Ohio's Unemployment Compensation Law. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Dever, J., 466-8120), Rm. 122, 9 a.m.
- HB 593 **CROWDFUNDING (Arndt, S.)** To permit intrastate equity crowdfunding under certain circumstances. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 598 **LOAN ACT (Terhar, L.)** To create the Ohio Consumer Installment Loan Act. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)
- HB 616 **BANKING LAW (Amstutz, R.)** For the purpose of enacting a new banking law for the State of Ohio. (1st Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)
Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of S. Craig Beam, Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund Advisor Council; Kelly Cole, Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation; Cy Prettyman, Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board and Michael Frazier and Gregory Levens, Dangerous & Restricted Animals Advisory Board
- SB 151 **DOGS LAW (Beagle, B.)** To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (4th Hearing-Opponent)
- SB 224 **AGRICULTURE LAWS (Brown, E.)** To revise the application and enforcement of the law governing operation and management plans, and to require certain animal feeding facilities to annually report the amount of manure that is applied by or for the facilities. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 271 **POLICE ANIMALS (Gentile, L.)** To authorize a law enforcement officer to purchase a police dog or horse for fair market value when the officer retires in good standing from a law enforcement agency and certain conditions are met, and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
House Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 018, 9:30 a.m.

- HB 561** PARK COMMISSIONERS (Boccieri, J., Clyde, K.) To require boards of county commissioners to appoint additional park board commissioners and allow for public comment during appointment process. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 562** MAIL DELIVERY (Hambley, S., Ryan, S.) To authorize local governments and officers to deliver certain notices by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 576** PUBLIC RECORDS (Ryan, S.) To exempt from the Public Records Act financial account numbers and identifying information in public records and to provide that taxpayer electronic mail address lists used by county treasurers to deliver tax bills are not public records. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- Senate State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082), North Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Thomas Pascarella, Ohio Retirement Study Council
- SB 347** PRIMARY ELECTIONS (LaRose, F.) To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 322** POLICE TRAINING (Hite, C.) To require the Ohio peace officer training commission to develop and conduct a chief of police training course for newly appointed chiefs of police appointed on or after January 1, 2017, and to require newly appointed chiefs of police of villages, cities, and townships to attend the training course within six months of appointment as a chief of police. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 306** DAY DESIGNATION (Yuko, K.) To designate July 8 as "Harrison Dillard Day." (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 440** AWARENESS DAY (Anielski, M.) To designate the Saturday before Thanksgiving as "Ohio Survivors of Suicide Loss Day." (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 276** CHIROPRACTORS (Schuring, K.) To authorize chiropractors to engage in certain activities involving nutrition-related items and therapies, nonprescription drugs, and medical goods and devices. (2nd Hearing-proponent)
- HB 423** MILITARY RECORDS (Perales, R.) To specify that an order for active military service or other documentation regarding the call to order of an individual in the Armed Forces of the United States or the Ohio organized militia is not a public record. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 167** LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION (Sweeney, M.) Regarding the term of a General Assembly member as a member of the Legislative Service Commission. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.
- SB 331** PET STORES (Peterson, B.) To regulate the sale of dogs from pet stores and dog retailers and to require the Director of Agriculture to license pet stores. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- SB 235** PROPERTY TAXES (Beagle, B., Coley, B.) To exempt from property tax the increased value of property on which industrial or commercial development is planned until the completion of new commercial or industrial facilities at the property. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & substitute)
House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.
Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.
Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981), Finance Hearing Rm., 11:15 a.m.
- SB 335** AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES (Patton, T.) To regulate non-bank automated teller machines. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 355** LOAN ACT (Peterson, B.) To create the Ohio Consumer Installment Loan Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
House Transportation & Infrastructure (Committee Record) (Chr. Boose, T., 466-9628), Rm. 018, 1 p.m. or after session
- **Agenda to be announced**
House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m. or after session
- HB 482** PROPERTY TAXES (Dever, J.) To change the calculation of the exempt value of improved property subject to a community reinvestment area exemption, to clarify the calculation of the exempt value of property subject to a brownfield-remediation exemption, and to authorize the filing of a complaint with the county auditor challenging the assessed value of fully or partially exempt property. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 592** INVESTMENT COMPANIES (Merrin, D.) To subject small business investment companies to the commercial activity tax rather than the financial institutions tax. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 612** DISASTER BUSINESS EXEMPTION (Ryan, S.) To exempt out-of-state disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 114, 1:30 p.m. or after session
- SB 206** CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS (LaRose, F.) To require certain campaign committees and other entities to file campaign finance statements electronically and to require the Secretary of State to make the information in those statements available online. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 613** SUNSET REVIEW LAW (Amstutz, R.) To revise and renew the Sunset Review Law, to require that a Sunset Review Committee be convened to function during each oddnumbered General Assembly, and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Possible substitute)
- HB 619** STATE PROPERTY CONVEYANCES (Rezabek, J.) To authorize the conveyance of, and the granting of perpetual easements to, state-owned real property. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

- SB 273** **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE** (Bacon, K.) To enact the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 329** **SUNSET REVIEW** (Jordan, K., Faber, K.) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 591** **SPECIAL ELECTIONS** (Pelanda, D.) To eliminate the requirement of holding a special election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- HB 539** **NEW AMERICANS** (Boyce, K.) To create the office for New Americans. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 536** **STATEHOUSE VIDEO** (Fedor, T.) To require the Ohio Government Telecommunications Service to broadcast live, with video and audio content, all General Assembly committee meetings and to name this act the Wire the Statehouse Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HR 192** **VOTING RIGHTS ACT** (Clyde, K., Reece, A.) Commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HR 206** **CONFEDERATE FLAG** (Sykes, E., Reece, A.) To urge the powers of the governments that continue to make issuances containing the confederate flag to discontinue this practice, to urge the powers of the governments that fly the confederate flag or any flag containing imagery of the confederate flag on public property to remove those flags in question, to urge the powers of governments that have official state flags that contain imagery derived from the confederate flag to commence in the process of redesigning the official state flag immediately, to urge South Carolina's General Assembly to direct removal of the confederate flag from state property and to urge Ohio retailers to remove from inventory any confederate flag merchandise. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 179** **VOTER REGISTRATION** (Stinziano, M., Sykes, E.) To require that eligible persons in the database of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles be automatically registered to vote or have their registrations updated automatically, as applicable, unless those persons decline to be registered or to update their registrations. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.
House Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. Young, R., 644-6074), Rm. 122, 2 p.m. or after session
- HB 601** **MICROBUSINESS** (Pelanda, D.) To create a statutory definition of "microbusiness." (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 574** **USED TIRES** (Sprague, R., DeVitis, T.) To prohibit the installation of unsafe used tires on certain motor vehicles. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 2:30 p.m. or after session
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments available at <http://www.gongwer.com/public/130/finconfirm.pdf>
- HB 435** **STATE FINANCING** (McClain, J.) To authorize the Treasurer of State to issue revenue obligations of the state for the purpose of making loans to qualifying public

entities for their acquisition of permanent improvements through the Treasurer of State's purchase of public obligations of those qualifying entities. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB 230 ACADEMIC DISTRESS COMMISSIONS (Schiavoni, J.) With regard to the operation of academic distress commissions and to modify the earmarked funding for the establishment of academic distress commissions. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 384 HIGHER EDUCATION AUDITS (Schaffer, T., Duffey, M.) To specify that state institutions of higher education may be subject to performance audits conducted by the Auditor of State. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

SB 317 BANKING LAWS (Hughes, J., Coley, B.) For the purpose of enacting a new banking law for the State of Ohio. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Senate Health & Human Services (Committee Record) (Chr. Jones, S., 466-9737), North Hearing Rm., 3 p.m. or after session

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Stephanie Loucka, Director of the Department of Aging; Billy Anderson, Jr., Ashok Das, Michael Ginder and Kumar Subramanian, D.D.S., State Dental Board; Raymond Mancini, John Patton, III, James Armile and John Stainbrook, Ohio Athletic Commission; Michael Aquillo, Ohio Respiratory Care Board; Michael Pratt, Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing Board; Ronan Factora, State Medical Board; Paul Schoonover, Chemical Dependency Professionals Board; Christopher Taylor, Ohio Board of Dietetics; Fred Weaver, Kilee Yarosh, Timothy Bechtold, State Board of Pharmacy; Jason Dapore, Hollie Kozak, Chad Miller and Jennifer Wissinger, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board.

HB 216 NURSES (Pelanda, D.) To revise the law governing advanced practice registered nurses. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible amendments)

HB 285 PRESCRIPTION REFILLS (Sprague, R.) To authorize pharmacists to dispense multiple refills of a prescription simultaneously under certain circumstances. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB 470 PALLIATIVE CARE FACILITIES (Schuring, K.) Regarding palliative care facilities. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB 42 OUTPATIENT TREATMENT (Beagle, B.) Regarding minors and outpatient mental health treatment. (5th Hearing-All testimony)

SB 314 HOSPITAL CARE (Lehner, P.) To provide for the designation of a lay person to provide after-care to a hospital inpatient and participate in discharge planning. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

HB 290 TERMINAL PATIENTS (Sprague, R., Anielski, M.) To permit a physician to treat a terminally ill patient with a drug that is not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and permit a drug manufacturer to provide such a drug to the patient or physician. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

HB 505 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS (Huffman, S., Pelanda, D.) Regarding the regulation of biological products and the substitution of interchangeable biological products when dispensed by pharmacists. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party-Possible amendments)

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 017, 3:30 p.m.

- HB 464** NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIPS (Terhar, L., Brinkman, T.) To specify that a National Guard scholarship recipient who fails to complete the recipient's term of enlistment in the National Guard due to enlistment, warrant, commission, or appointment in the United States armed forces is not liable for repayment of the scholarship. (3rd Hearing-Possible substitute & vote)
- HB 105** MILITARY TRANSFERS (Craig, H., Perales, R.) To permit persons who quit work to accompany the person's spouse on a military transfer to be eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
House Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 p.m.
- SB 284** EXPUNGEMENT (Obhof, L.) To provide that a person who is found not guilty of an offense by a jury or a court or who is the defendant named in a dismissed complaint, indictment, or information may apply to the court for an order to expunge the person's official records in the case if the complaint, indictment, or information or finding of not guilty was the result of the applicant having been a victim of human trafficking and to authorize intervention in lieu of conviction for persons charged with committing an offense while a victim of compelling prostitution. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 257** REAL PROPERTY (Seitz, B., Skindell, M.) To create a presumption of validity of recorded real property instruments, reduce the time period for curing certain defects related to those instruments, and provide constructive notice for those instruments. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)
- HB 559** MEDICAL CLAIMS (Cupp, R.) To grant qualified civil immunity to certain medical providers who provide emergency medical services as a result of a disaster or mass hazard; to provide that certain communications made regarding an unanticipated outcome of medical care, the development or implementation of standards under federal laws, and an insurer's reimbursement policies on health care are inadmissible as evidence in a medical claim; to provide that medical bills itemizing charges are inadmissible as evidence and a payment for medical services accepted by a defendant from an insurer is admissible as evidence of the reasonableness of the charges; to specify the manner of sending a notice of intent to file a medical claim and provide a procedure for the discovery of other potential claims within a specified period after the filing of a medical claim; to provide that any loss of a chance of recovery or survival by itself is not an injury, death, or loss for which damages may be recovered; to provide civil immunity to certain medical providers regarding the discharge of a patient with a mental condition that threatens the safety of the patient or others; to require that governmental agencies that receive peer review committee records maintain their confidentiality; and to clarify the definition of "medical claim." (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)
- HB 602** DIGITAL ASSETS (Cupp, R., Rezabek, J.) To adopt the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)
- SB 299** PERRY COUNTY COURTS (Hottinger, J.) To create the Perry County Municipal Court in New Lexington on January 1, 2017, to establish one full-time judgeship in that court, to provide for the nomination of the judge by petition only, to abolish the Perry County County Court on that date, to designate the Perry County Clerk of Courts as

the clerk of the Perry County Municipal Court, and to provide for the election for the Perry County Municipal Court of one full-time judge in 2017. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

- HB 581 **LLC REGULATIONS** (Dever, J., Reineke, B.) To permit and regulate managers, members, and interests of series limited liability companies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 139 **POST-CONVICTION RELIEF** (Seitz, B., Williams, S.) To require the clerk of a common pleas court to retain a copy of the original trial file when a death penalty is imposed, to specify that there is no page limit on petitions for postconviction relief in death penalty cases or in appeals of denials of such relief, to modify the time for filing an amended postconviction relief petition in death penalty cases, to provide for depositions and subpoenas during discovery in postconviction relief proceedings in death penalty cases, and to require a judge hearing a postconviction relief proceeding in a death penalty case to state specifically in the findings of fact and conclusions of law why each claim was either denied or granted. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 106 **PUBLIC INDECENCY** (Schaffer, T.) To require an offender who knowingly commits the offense of public indecency under certain circumstances involving conduct likely to be viewed by minors to register as a Tier I sex offender/child-victim offender. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- HB 283 **DNA TESTING** (Fedor, T.) To require DNA testing for misdemeanor convictions of voyeurism, public indecency, procuring, soliciting, loitering to engage in soliciting, and prostitution. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)
- House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.
- SB 30 **FAMILY STABILITY** (Tavares, C.) To create the Ohio Family Stability Commission. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 286 **MARRIAGE** (Vitale, N.) To provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not required to solemnize a marriage and a religious society is not required to allow any building or property of the religious society to be used to host a marriage ceremony if the marriage does not conform to the ordained or licensed minister's or religious society's sincerely held religious beliefs, to provide that an ordained or licensed minister or religious society is not subject to civil or criminal liability for such a denial, and to provide that the state and political subdivisions may not penalize or withhold benefits to an ordained or licensed minister or religious society for such a denial. (6th Hearing-All testimony)
- HB 458 **FOSTER CARE** (Boyce, K., Rezabek, J.) To provide foster care maintenance payments for children in the care of a kinship caregiver without requiring the caregiver to be certified to provide foster care and to require, rather than permit, the creation of the statewide program of kinship care navigators. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 308 **CHILD SUPPORT** (Coley, B.) To amend the child support laws. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

HB 618

RECORD EXPUNGEMENT (Schuring, K., Reece, A.) To provide for the expungement of official records related to the apprehension, arrest, criminal charging, or trial of a person based on mistaken identity. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

- Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction, will testify on the revised English language arts and math learning standards pursuant to 3301.079 (J).

HB 410

TRUANCY (Rezabek, J., Hayes, B.) With regard to habitual and chronic truancy and compulsory school attendance. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB 89

MEDICAID SCHOOL PROGRAM (DeVitis, T.) Regarding the Medicaid School Program. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB 126

OPEN ENROLLMENT (Sawyer, T.) To terminate interdistrict open enrollment on that date with the possibility of renewal following the General Assembly's examination of the study's findings. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Wednesday, November 30

House Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Dovilla, M., 466-4895), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HB 525

911 CALLS (Johnson, G.) To require multi-line telephone systems to have a default configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit or code. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 589

UTILITY RESELLING (Duffey, M.) To permit the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules governing residential utility reselling. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB 72

PORT AUTHORITIES (Conditt, M.) To authorize port authorities to create energy special improvement districts for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for special energy improvement projects and to alter the law governing such districts that are governed by a nonprofit corporation. (5th Hearing-Possible substitute)

HB 554

RENEWABLE ENERGY (Amstutz, R.) To revise the requirements for renewable energy, energy efficiency savings, and peak demand reduction and to revise provisions governing which customers can opt out of related programs. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Senate Health & Human Services (Committee Record) (Chr. Jones, S., 466-9737), North Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

- Agenda to be announced

Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981), Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

SB 355

LOAN ACT (Peterson, B.) To create the Ohio Consumer Installment Loan Act. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), North Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m.

- Ferzan Ahmed, State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors; Andrew Bainbridge, JD, Ski Tramway Board; Kristine Burdick and Rowland Giller, III, Ohio Real Estate Commission; James Gasior and Michael Peterson, Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission; Stephanie Green, Janet Orosz and Richard Zaleski, Ohio Fair Plan Underwriting Association Board of Governors; W. Craig Zimpher, State Employment Relations Board; Bill Dingus, Chris Kershner and Christopher Powell, Transportation Review

Advisory Council; J. Richard Lumpe, State Employment Relations Board; Ross McGregor, State Personnel Board of Review; Scott Murray, Board of Motor Vehicle Repair; Thomas Needles, Motor Vehicle Dealers Board; Gary Siciliano, Motor Vehicle Salvage Dealers Licensing Board and George Snyder, State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services

- HB 341 TRANSPORTATION LAWS (Young, R., Sweeney, M.) To require the Public Utilities Commission to raise the existing statutorily designated towing and storage fees annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index, to establish a \$35 fee for the retrieval of nonmedical personal items from a motor vehicle, to modify the civil penalties applicable to violations of the towing law, to modify the calculation of the value of an abandoned vehicle to which a towing service or storage facility seeks to take title, and to make other changes to the towing law. (2nd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)
- HB 532 REAL ESTATE SALES (Smith, R.) Relating to real estate brokers and salespersons. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 345 LICENSE PLATE (Jones, S.) To create the Conquer Childhood Cancer license plate. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 359 LICENSE PLATE (Uecker, J.) To create the Down Syndrome Awareness license plate. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 361 LICENSE PLATE (Thomas, C.) To create the "Triple Negative Breast Cancer Awareness" license plate. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 363 LICENCE PLATE (Oelslager, S.) To create the "Buckeye Corvette" license plate. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 436 DUI SENTENCES (Cupp, R., Rogers, J.) To authorize a judge that grants limited driving privileges to a second-time OVI offender to order the termination of the mandatory immobilization order. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 455 BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE (Patterson, J., Roegner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)
- Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.
- Senate Criminal Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 11:15 a.m.
- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Larry Mincks, Sr. and Christopher Viland, Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission
- HB 172 CRIMINAL RECORDS (Barnes, J.) To enact the Fair and Accurate Reporting of Criminal Records Law, to require certain business entities that publish criminal record information to ensure that the information is complete and accurate, to provide a procedure by which a subject of published criminal record information may have incomplete or inaccurate information corrected or removed from the publication, and to provide remedies for the failure of a business entity to remove or correct incomplete or inaccurate information. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- SB 237 DRUG VOLUME (LaRose, F.) To provide that five milligrams or more of fentanyl or an amount equal to or exceeding one gram of a compound, mixture, preparation, or

substance that contains any amount of fentanyl and that is not in a final dosage form manufactured by an authorized manufacturer constitutes a bulk amount for purposes of the laws governing drug offenses, to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of permitting drug abuse, and to add lisdexamfetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

- SB 162** **DEATH SENTENCES** (Seitz, B., Williams, S.) To provide that a person convicted of aggravated murder who shows that the person had a serious mental illness at the time of committing the offense cannot be sentenced to death for the offense and to provide a mechanism for resentencing to a life sentence a person previously sentenced to death who proves that the person had a serious mental illness at the time of committing the offense. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 195** **SEXUAL CONDUCT** (Hughes, J., Hottinger, J.) To prohibit a person from engaging in sexual conduct with an animal and related acts, to provide for the seizure and impoundment of an animal that is the subject of a violation, and to authorize a sentencing court to require an offender to undergo psychological evaluation or counseling. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)
- SB 265** **CASINO OPERATORS** (Seitz, B.) To specify that the criminal penalty related to casino operators and employees participating in casino gaming applies at their casino facility or an affiliated casino facility. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 405** **IMPORTUNING** (Schaffer, T., Smith, K.) To amend the penalties for the offense of importuning. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 185** **ARSON** (Koehler, K.) To eliminate lack of the property owner's consent as an element of arson when the property is abandoned real property and to make the consent of the owner of abandoned real property an affirmative defense. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 521** **PAROLE ELIGIBILITY** (Manning, N.) To provide special parole eligibility dates for persons with an indefinite or life sentence imposed for an offense committed when the person was less than 18 years of age, to require the Parole Board to consider specified mitigating factors in those cases, and to require notice to the Ohio Public Defender and prosecuting attorney prior to the parole consideration hearing. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 439** **VOYEURISM** (Anielski, M.) To include an impaired person as a victim of voyeurism and to include conduct involving an impaired person within the offenses of pandering obscenity involving a minor, pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor, and illegal use of a minor in a nudity-oriented material or performance. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
- SB 316** **SEXUAL IMPOSITION** (Hughes, J.) To increase the penalty for sexual imposition when the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or more violations of sexual imposition or other specified sex offenses. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Canceled: House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

- If needed

Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.
House State Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Maag, R., 644-6023), Rm. 121, 2:30 p.m.

- SB 227 ATTORNEY GENERAL (Bacon, K.) To make various changes to the laws governing the duties and functions of the Attorney General. (2nd Hearing-Opponent-Possible amendment & vote)
- HB 577 LAME DUCK SESSIONS (Boose, T.) To prohibit the General Assembly from holding sessions after the general election in an even-numbered year. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HJR 7 BANKING FUNCTIONS (Sheehy, M., Ramos, D.) To urge the United States Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation that would reinstate the separation of commercial and investment banking function that was in effect under the Glass-Steagall Act. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HR 383 TRAIN CREWS (Sheehy, M., Lepore-Hagan, M.) To support the Federal Railroad Administration's proposed rule requiring trains operated in the United States to have at least a two-person crew. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 331 SAFETY BELTS (Phillips, D.) To require all passengers in automobiles to wear safety belts. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HR 344 CORPORATE BOARDS (Johnson, G., Boggs, K.) To urge equitable and diverse gender representation on the corporate boards of directors of companies based in Ohio. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 494 FIREARMS (Antonio, N., Boyd, J.) To require a court that issues a protection order to determine if the respondent is prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm, to require a court to determine whether an offender who has been convicted of specified offenses is prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm, and to require a respondent or offender who the court determines is prohibited from carrying or possessing a firearm to transfer all firearms in the person's possession to a law enforcement agency or a federally licensed firearms dealer. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 324 DAY DESIGNATION (Ramos, D.) To declare November 23rd as Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 381 NUTRITION PROGRAMS (Ramos, D., Howse, S.) To require the Director of Job and Family Services to request a federal waiver of time limits for certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 332 REPLICA VEHICLE TITLES (Patterson, J.) To provide that when a certificate of title is issued for a motor vehicle, the owner may request that the certificate indicate that the motor vehicle is a replica vehicle. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 330 EQUAL PAY CERTIFICATE (Howse, S., Clyde, K.) To require a contractor or person submitting a bid or other proposal for a state contract or a business entity applying for a grant or other economic incentive from a state agency to obtain an equal pay certificate, to require state agencies and political subdivisions to establish a job evaluation system to identify and eliminate sex-based wage disparities among classes of employees, and to prohibit an employer from retaliating against an employee who discusses the employee's salary or wage rate with another employee. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 337 DAY DESIGNATION (Clyde, K.) To designate the fourth Tuesday of September as Ohio Voter Registration Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HR 56 EQUAL PAY DAY (Fedor, T.) To recognize April 14, 2015, as Equal Pay Day to encourage public awareness of the gender wage gap. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 329 DAY DESIGNATION (Howse, S., Boyd, J.) To designate February 23 as Louis Stokes Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HB 519 LSC DUTIES (Howse, S.) To require the Director of the Legislative Service Commission to prepare a human impact statement concerning a bill or resolution that proposes to amend the law governing criminal justice. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- HCR 23 DAY DESIGNATION (Howse, S.) To designate June 15, 2015, as Karamu House Day. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)
- Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150), South Hearing Rm., 4:30 p.m.
- SB 271 POLICE ANIMALS (Gentile, L.) To authorize a law enforcement officer to purchase a police dog or horse for fair market value when the officer retires in good standing from a law enforcement agency and certain conditions are met, and to declare an emergency. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Thursday, December 1

Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

- SB 355 LOAN ACT (Peterson, B.) To create the Ohio Consumer Installment Loan Act. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- Senate Transportation, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), North Hearing Rm., 9:30 a.m.

- HB 341 TRANSPORTATION LAWS (Young, R., Sweeney, M.) To require the Public Utilities Commission to raise the existing statutorily designated towing and storage fees annually by the percentage increase in the consumer price index, to establish a \$35 fee for the retrieval of nonmedical personal items from a motor vehicle, to modify the civil penalties applicable to violations of the towing law, to modify the calculation of the value of an abandoned vehicle to which a towing service or storage facility seeks to take title, and to make other changes to the towing law. (3rd Hearing-Proponent & interested party-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 455 BOARDING SCHOOL ZONE (Patterson, J., Roegner, K.) To authorize a municipal corporation or township to establish a boarding school zone and a special speed limit within that zone. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 202 FRONT LICENSE PLATE (Thomas, C.) To specify that failure to display a license plate on the front of a motor vehicle that is required to display a license plate on the front and rear of the vehicle is a secondary traffic offense, to establish a maximum fine of \$25 for such an offense, to name this act the "DuBose Was A Beacon Act," and to amend the version of section 4503.21 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2017, to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

- HB 436** DUI SENTENCES (Cupp, R., Rogers, J.) To authorize a judge that grants limited driving privileges to a second-time OVI offender to order the termination of the mandatory immobilization order. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- HB 236** PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS (Landis, A., Blessing, L.) To require professional engineers to complete continuing professional development hours in professional ethics or rules-relevant to engineering or surveying practices. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)
- SB 249** ROOFING CONTRACTORS (Patton, T.) To require commercial roofing contractors to have a license. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)
House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.
- SB 235** PROPERTY TAXES (Beagle, B., Coley, B.) To exempt from property tax the increased value of property on which industrial or commercial development is planned until the completion of new commercial or industrial facilities at the property. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)
- SB 331** PET STORES (Peterson, B.) To regulate the sale of dogs from pet stores and dog retailers and to require the Director of Agriculture to license pet stores. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute)
- SB 319** DRUG REGULATIONS (Eklund, J.) To revise certain laws regarding the regulation of drugs, the practice of pharmacy, and the provision of addiction services. (2nd Hearing-Possible substitute)
- SB 332** INFANT MORTALITY (Jones, S., Tavares, C.) To provide for the implementation of recommendations made by the Commission on Infant Mortality and to authorize pharmacists to administer by injection certain prescribed drugs. (2nd Hearing-Possible substitute)

Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 11 a.m.
Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

Tuesday, December 6

House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.
Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.
Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 7

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.
House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.
Senate Session (Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the **after** a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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Volume #85, Report #225 -- Tuesday, November 22, 2016
Senate Hears Mixed Review Of Energy Freeze Bill; Early December Committee Vote Eyed

The state's top consumer utility advocate told a Senate panel Tuesday the renewable energy and energy efficiency benchmarks in a Senate bill are "reasonable."

But Ohio Consumers' Counsel Bruce Weston said in testimony before the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee that he still has plenty of concerns with the proposal (SB 320).

Mr. Weston's was one of a trio of witnesses on both sides of the issue to appear before the committee during the bill's third hearing.

Questioned by Chairman Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville), Mr. Weston said that a 12.5% renewable energy benchmark for 2029 and beyond was reasonable in his view. As for the 17% benchmark for energy efficiency - which was reduced from the bill's earlier 22% - Mr. Weston said that number is on the lower end of "something I could accept as reasonable."

Sen. Balderson said in an interview he has no intention of holding a vote on the issue next week considering the holiday and the short notice interested parties received about Tuesday's hearing.

"We'll have some more hearings," Sen. Balderson said. "We want to give everyone adequate time. We'd like to have at least something by the first of December that we can vote on."

Several amendments have been drafted behind the scenes, although it's unclear if and when they'll be introduced for consideration. Sponsor Sen. Bill Seitz said he is unsure whether he will introduce any of his prepared amendments next week.

"I think there are a couple things we could tweak along the way, but, yes, I do feel good about it," Sen. Balderson said of the status of the bill. "And I know one amendment might be the mercantile opt out. It's in there right now (to start) in 2019, but 2017 was talked about last week in committee."

Outlining his concerns with the bill, Mr. Weston urged the committee to: preclude utilities from charging consumers for shared savings that are not a direct result of utility programs or that are unrelated to electricity sales; add language to protect consumers from bearing any cost associated with the mercantile opt-out program, and; prohibit consideration of renewables and energy efficiency in cases other than those intended for implementing the energy standards.

Responding to a question from Sen. Seitz, Mr. Weston floated the idea of a 3% cost cap for consumers. He also argued for requiring utilities to use competitive bidding when retaining providers or vendors when implementing their energy efficiency programs.

He further advised against any attempts to add language permitting electricity rate hikes if a utility's financial integrity is at risk.

"If such a change in the law is to be considered by the legislature, it should be done in a standalone bill with a full public hearing process and not rushed in this limited post-election session," Mr. Weston said.

Brakey Energy President Matt Brakey was the only proponent to testify during this week's hearing. He said the company fully supports the mercantile customer opt-out and would even urge the provision to be enacted sooner.

The bill as written would expand opt-out eligibility to businesses consuming more than 700,000 kilowatt hours per year - a move opponents say is premature considering the existing opt-out doesn't begin until 2017. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 17, 2016)

Even if the opt-out timeline isn't advanced, Mr. Brakey said, lawmakers should act fast in reaching a resolution before the ongoing freeze on energy standards expires at year's end.

"Because of the cycle time of the electric distribution utilities, delaying commonsense reforms will require the utilities to launch another expensive, multi-year installment toward compliance that will be passed onto Ohio's residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional customers," he said. "This is an outcome Ohioans cannot afford."

Environmental Law and Policy Center Senior Attorney Rob Kelter said the group opposes the bill's removal of compliance mechanisms for the first three years.

Opponents argue such language waters down the state's approach to renewables while proponents say it buys the state more time pending the legal resolution of the Clean Power Plan.

"The utilities recover both their costs and lost revenues related to energy efficiency so they are held harmless. On top of that they share the savings they generate for customers through shared savings mechanisms that all the utilities have achieved," Mr. Kelter said. "Some utilities have earned bonuses as high as \$20 million per year from running the programs. Making the standards voluntary sends the wrong signal regarding the importance of the standards and the need to meet the targets."

Mr. Kelter said the group also opposes both the lowering of the energy efficiency benchmark to 17% and the potential expansion of the mercantile opt-out program.

"Somehow, listening to the testimony and comments from proponents, one would think

Ohio is about to become California," Mr. Kelter said. "We are only looking for a very reasonable and doable level of efficiency and renewables that will benefit all Ohioans through both cleaner air and lower bills."

Alan Rosenfield submitted written opponent testimony on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, saying that the bill "continues bad policy by refusing to require a reasonable percentage of energy come from renewable sources."

"We reject the idea that SB320 lifts the two-year freeze imposed on renewable energy requirements," he wrote. "We urge that the current language of O.R.C. 4928-64 be retained and oppose any changes in that section that are included in SB320."

Senate Panel Takes Up Ignition Interlock Device Measure

First-time OVI offenders could have the opportunity to be granted unlimited driving privileges, with a catch, under a House bill reviewed in the Senate Tuesday.

The legislation (HB 388) sponsored by Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) would allow first-time offenders to petition the court for unlimited driving privileges with an Ignition Interlock Device during the offender's driver's license suspension.

"Our current laws contain an ineffective system of limited driving privileges. The offender first has a period of 15 days where he or she cannot drive at all. Then he or she can obtain limited driving privileges from the judge and may be granted access to any occupational, educational, vocational, or medical destinations as well as commercial licensing exams and court mandated appearances during certain times of the day," he told members of the Senate Insurance Committee Tuesday.

"Second-time offenders are required to use a certified Ignition Interlock Device (IID) if restricted driving has been permitted. Second time offenders are also required to employ yellow license plates on their vehicles. The second offense provisions all too often give rise to plea bargains to reduce the overall punishment."

The legislation, dubbed "Annie's Law," also lengthens the first-time minimum suspension from six months to 12 months. However, that suspension can be cut in half if a court grants a request to use an IID.

In addition, the measure would also require a first-time offender to obtain a restricted license indicating the use of an IID is required.

"It is important to note that this language is permissive: the offender is not required to request the use of the device, nor is the judge required to allow the use of the device. The IID petition can only be granted at the time of conviction, not at the time of the arraignment. There is no change to current law for the time from arrest to conviction," Rep. Scherer said.

Yet another provision of the bill would extend the look-back period for OVI offenses from six to 10 years.

Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) questioned the rationale behind that provision.

Rep. Scherer said it was requested by municipal court judges who believe the six-year window is not long enough.

In researching the legislation, Rep. Scherer told the panel that he voluntarily installed an IID in his own vehicle and sought to allay some of the misconceptions about the device, including the belief that an impaired driver could have a child blow into it to allow a vehicle to be started.

"It's not that simple to use," he said. "It does require a velocity of air going through the device, and a sustained velocity."

Chairman Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) asked if the devices require a driver to do anything while operating a vehicle.

Rep. Scherer said that some do require a "rolling retest," which he was initially opposed to until he learned that 28 states with similar laws also mandate continued testing after the initial one to allow the vehicle to start.

"It is not a significant burden," he said. "You can always pull over to the side of the road to do it. I found that once I got used to it, I didn't need to pull over to do it."

The bill is named after Annie Rooney, who was killed by a drunken driver in 2013.

"The woman who hit Annie that fateful day had at least three misdemeanor charges of operating a vehicle while impaired filed against her. Since her death, Annie's family has worked with Mothers Against Drunk Driving and others in their cause to reduce the number of casualties to this horrible tragedy that occurs far too often," Rep. Scherer said.

The bill has been in the works for three years and currently has no known opposition, Rep. Scherer told the panel.

The measure cleared the House in an 84-5 vote in May. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 18, 2016)

Proponents Urge Senate Support For Ohio EPA Updates

More than a dozen proponents testified or submitted written testimony to the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee Tuesday on the governor's second OEPA-themed mid-biennium review bill.

During the bill's (SB 333) second hearing before the committee, lawmakers asked no questions as witnesses touted what they perceive as the bill's merits.

By and large, the group said the bill would install much-needed oversight over construction and demolition debris processing plants, refocus the mission of the Lake Erie Commission, and permit the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's director to waive, transfer or revoke a 401 water quality certification. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 18, 2016)

Ohio Environmental Council Deputy Director Jack Shaner thanked the OEPA for participating in stakeholder meetings to gather feedback, saying the group is "confident that constructive compromise amendments will emerge."

That's because the group, which supports the bill, still has two areas of concern, Mr. Shaner said.

One provision worth revisiting, he said, is language that makes substantive changes to the makeup, authority and duties of the Lake Erie Commission. The bill's intent is to refocus the commission on helping the state meet its obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

"It remains unclear how and to what extent the commission will 'ensure the...implementation of federal, state and local policies, programs and issues,'" Mr. Shaner said, recommending instead the language be changed so the commission can ensure coordination of "the funding, implementation, and monitoring" of those areas.

The group also requested a change in language enabling the OEPA director to grant 401 waivers, which proponents say will speed up projects already approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

OEC argues the waiver should be considered a final appealable order and should not be issued within 90 days of the agency's receipt of a complete application to allow actual agency review. Further, the group said the director should be required to include written justification for granting the waiver.

Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District Executive Director Diane Bickett testified the bill would address "serious problems" stemming from unregulated C&DD processing facilities in the county. She said such sites accumulate waste, becoming eyesores and ultimately shifting the burden of cleanup onto taxpayers.

"Most of the debris being accepted at this and other sham recycling facilities is debris resulting from the demolition of vacant homes," she said. "Demolition contractors cut costs by taking the debris to these sham recycling sites because they undercut the disposal fees that legitimate recyclers and landfills must charge in order to operate properly."

Ohio Environmental Health Association President Chad Brown said the group has spent a decade trying to address issues within the C&DD industry, but has made little progress without legislative action.

"There have been cases in all regions of the state where materials have been stockpiled without being processed properly, which has resulted in public nuisance situations," Mr. Brown said. "SB333 aims to address these nuisance conditions and provide the proper authority to OEPA and local health departments to address these issues."

Other witnesses praised different facets of the bill. Ohio Chamber of Commerce Director of Energy and Environmental Policy Zachary Frymier said the bill would improve business efficiency and surface water quality by strengthening the Certified Water Quality Professional Program.

Agreeing the bill would allow the state to address "bad actors" in the C&DD industry, he also praised the 401 waiver provision.

Ohio Rural Water Association Executive Director Kevin Strang singled out the bill's requirement that private water systems maintain an asset management plan. He said his association regularly assists systems with few resources that have overlooked or delayed maintenance and inventory planning.

"We have most recently provided extensive services to the villages of Botkins in Shelby County, Gratis in Preble County, and Spring Valley in Green County," he said. "In these three systems alone we project potential long term savings in excess of \$500,000 by reducing the need for premature repairs and replacement of system equipment."

Others testifying in support of the measure included Geoff Guss of Coschoton's McWane Ductile, professional engineer Alan Olsen, Great Lakes RCAP Director Debbie Martin, Hecla Water Association Inc. General Manager Tony Howard, and Materials Management Advisory Council Chairman Michael Dineen.

Submitting written proponent testimony were Port of Cleveland Vice President of External Affairs Jade Davis, Cuyahoga County Health Commissioner Terry Allan, Aqua Ohio Inc. and Aqua Ohio Wastewater Inc. President Ed Kolodziej, CSX Resident Vice President Rusty Orben, and a pair of Ohio residents.

Committee Chair Raises Concerns About Insurance Bill

The leader of a Senate committee on Tuesday questioned the efficacy of a measure designed to prevent certain uninsured drivers from collecting non-compensatory damages as a result of a traffic accident.

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark), chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee, said a recent study found that the measure (HB 279) would decrease the rate of uninsured drivers on Ohio's roadways by just 1.6%.

"Candidly, 1.6% is probably certainly inside the margin of error," he said.

Sponsoring Rep. Michael Henne (R-Clayton) said the legislation is about fairness. He likened the circumstances it addresses to a group that buys lottery tickets and hits a jackpot, then someone who did not contribute to the purchase asking for a share of the winnings.

"If everybody participates then we are protecting everybody," he said.

Sen. Hottinger also raised concerns about a letter from the Ohio Judicial Conference sent to Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton), a co-sponsor of the bill, that suggested the measure could violate both the Equal Protection and Due Process clauses of the Ohio Constitution.

But Rep. Henne said just one state's high court found a similar measure to be unconstitutional.

Under the bill, those who have a previous conviction of driving without insurance in the past seven years would be barred from seeking non-compensatory damages in the event of a traffic accident.

"They can still collect damages for their damaged property, medical bills, and loss of wages," Rep. Henne said.

Uninsured motorists would still be able to sue for non-economic damages in what Rep. Henne described as egregious situations, including crashes involving a four- or six-point offense, texting while driving and wrongful death. Drivers under the age of 18 will also be exempted from the law.

An estimated 15% of Ohio drivers are uninsured, above the national average of 13%, according to Rep. Henne.

The number of crashes involving uninsured drivers increased from 50,151 in 2011 to 95,000 in 2015, he said.

"Drivers who repeatedly choose not to participate in a system that is designed to protect all drivers, by failing to purchase the required minimum limits of liability protection, will no longer receive the full benefits of this system," he said. "If they are injured by another driver, HB279 affords the uninsured driver more than the amount of protection they offer their victims."

Sen. Hottinger was not alone in questioning the measure. Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) said she supports the goal behind the bill, but does not believe it will accomplish "a great deal."

"I would like to see a bill where we come forth with some method by which we use some other stick," she said.

Adding that there are many Ohioans who cannot afford liability insurance and lack access to public transportation, the Democrat said, "We need something else. We need to look at the possibility that there may be extenuating circumstances."

Rep. Henne replied by saying that if someone does not have the financial means to obtain liability insurance, they don't have the financial means to drive a vehicle.

"Should we allow people to run through red lights if they are late for work?" he asked.

The legislation passed the House in May on a largely party-line vote of 62-35, with Reps. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) and Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) voting with the Democrats on opposition. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 25, 2016)

Medical Board Closes Investigation Into Dayton Abortion Clinic

Anti-abortion groups on Tuesday called for further government action against a Dayton-area clinic following the State Medical Board of Ohio's closure of a case involving the facility.

Ohio Right to Life and Dayton Right to Life urged the board to either disclose the investigative record or reopen the probe into Women's Med Center in Kettering regarding a June incident in which a patient received an abortion despite being unable to consent due to a drug overdose.

Dayton Right to Life filed complaints with the board earlier this year after an incident report from the Ohio Department of Health. The patient had taken a number of drugs the day of the scheduled abortion and was unable to walk on her own or keep her eyes open, according to the report. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 4, 2016)

Paul Coudron, executive director of Dayton Right to Life, said he received a notice from the Medical Board that the cases against the doctors at the facility had been closed with no action taken.

"The women of Dayton deserve to know why no action, not even a reprimand, has been taken by this institution," he said at a Columbus news conference.

Mr. Coudron and Devin Scribner, executive director of Ohio Right to Life, said they want the board either to release the record of their investigation or to reopen the case.

"Today we're here to call for action from the State Medical Board," Mr. Scribner said. "Case closed is not good enough for us."

Katherine Franklin, spokeswoman for Ohio Right to Life, said the issue is one of informed consent and should be of concern for Ohioans regardless of their attitudes toward abortion.

"This is much more a question of ethics in medicine more than it is politics," she said. "Pro-choice and pro-life advocates should be demanding action on this case, because it gets to the heart of a woman's right to say no and control her own bodily autonomy."

Michael Gonidakis, the president of Ohio Right to Life, serves as president of the State Medical Board but said he would recuse himself in the case. The investigation was closed by board staff and never required a hearing before the board.

Tessie Pollock, a spokeswoman for the board, said the details of complaints and investigations are confidential.

"When we receive complaints about informed consent, we investigate fully, as we do with all complaints against licensees," she said in an email. "Informed consent is an essential part of a physician's standard of care; failure to obtain informed consent is a failure to meet the minimal standard of care required of Ohio licensed physicians."

Investigative staff at the board have access to medical records, interviews with providers, patients, complainants and experts, and can subpoena documents, she said.

Kellie Copeland, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio, said the case has been reviewed and closed.

"When this case opened, the Ohio Department of Health investigated and asked the provider to rewrite their policy, which they did," she said in a statement. "Both the health department and the State Medical Board have looked into this case, and neither have decided additional action is necessary. Case closed."

"Women in Ohio need access to safe and legal abortion care from providers like Women's Med Center," she added. "They don't need political interference from Ohio Right to Life."

Buckeye Institute Touts Charity Care; OSMA Launches Opioid Campaign; Innovation Ohio Eyes Food Insecurity

The state could encourage more affordable health care by incentivizing doctors to perform charity care, according to a policy brief by the Buckeye Institute.

Bureaucratic hurdles in Medicaid create a situation in which doctors often refuse new patients, and limitations on voluntary charity care would help doctors and nurses reach more people, wrote Greg Lawson, Statehouse liaison for the Buckeye Institute.

The policy brief encouraged lawmakers to allow health care professionals to receive continuing education credits in exchange for providing charity care to underserved Ohioans. Other states, such as Florida, allow medical professionals to earn credit for up to a certain number of hours or a certain percentage of credit per renewal period. Bills have been introduced (HB 488 and SB 292) to deal with these issues.

"Healthcare providers must maintain a requisite number of CE credits to practice in Ohio, and allowing some of those credits to be earned through charity care will increase the supply of quality treatment available to the poor," Mr. Lawson wrote.

Other possible changes that would improve access to charity care include broadening immunity provisions that protect charity care providers from malpractice lawsuits, the brief said, and relaxing regulatory requirements on licensed nurses. A bill (HB 216) to increase the autonomy of advanced practice registered nurses has cleared the House and is currently before a Senate committee.

"These are examples of the kind of reforms that could be pursued as policymakers devise ways to extend access to more affordable healthcare to our neediest patients and communities," Mr. Lawson wrote.

OSMA Opioid Campaign: The Ohio State Medical Association has launched a campaign aimed at fighting the problem of misuse and abuse of opioid painkillers.

The campaign, called BeSmart, includes posters and prescription pads for doctors and prescribers to use that raise awareness of information about the potentially addictive and dangerous drugs.

The materials include links and numbers for drug-related resources and advice for people who are prescribed opioids, people who are prescribed non-opioid treatments, and for talking to children about drug abuse.

Food Insecurity Report: An investment of \$16 million in the Ohio State Extension nutrition education programs could lift 24,000 Ohioans out of food insecurity, according to a report from the Innovation Ohio Education Fund.

The report looked at a number of potential policy solutions for dealing with the state's high rate of food insecurity, including improving the nutrition education programs, expanding the number of counties with SNAP eligibility waivers, reforming the state earned income tax credit and investing in job creation programs.

It found the education funding to be highly effective, while grading it a medium for efficiency and political feasibility.

"Based on the above analysis, I recommend that the state of Ohio expand its nutrition education program and expand the number of counties with SNAP eligibility waivers," author Rob Moore wrote. "EITC reforms and job programs, while potentially valuable for other reasons, are unlikely to significantly decrease food insecurity in the state without large, expensive investments."

"A state-funded SNAP-Ed program funded at \$16 million (a modest 0.6% increase in higher education spending for Ohio and one tenth the size of an EITC expansion) would lead to a projected reduction in food insecurity that would lift 24,000 Ohioans out of food insecurity," he added.

Farmers Union Prices Thanksgiving Dinner; AG Warns On Holiday Shopping Scams; DSW Sales Up

Farmers will see less than 20% of consumer dollars spent on popular holiday menu items this year, according to an annual report.

The Thanksgiving edition of the National Farmers Union Farmer's Share publication found that farmers receive 19.4 cents of every food dollar spent on 15 common holiday foods. Most of the cost of traditional fare comes from marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing.

Throughout the year, research has found farmers take in a little more than 17 cents for every food dollar consumers spend, NFU said.

"It's important to understand the difference between the price consumers pay for food at the grocery store or restaurant and the commodity prices farmers are paid for their products," NFU President Roger Johnson said in a statement.

"Just recently, food costs started to drop, but farm and ranch families have been plagued by low commodity prices for nearly three years," he said. "Comparatively, the costs associated with the rest of the supply chain have a more pronounced effect on consumers' food prices."

Turkey growers receive about 89 cents per pound retailing at \$1.59, while wheat farmers averaged four cents on a dozen dinner rolls that retail for \$3.29 and dairy producers received \$1.44 for the average \$4.49 gallon of fat free milk, the report shows.

Holiday Shopping: The Better Business Bureau and Attorney General Mike DeWine are working to inform consumers about how to keep themselves and their wallets safe as the holiday shopping season officially kicks off this week.

The AG's office released a list of tips for the estimated 137.4 million shoppers expected to take to stores over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

It includes recommendations to make plans before getting to stores, diligently reading fine print in ads and on "free" offers, and monitor bank accounts for any fraudulent charges.

"We encourage consumers to take some simple steps to protect themselves," Attorney General DeWine said. "Whether they're shopping online or in stores, we encourage people to take their time, understand the details, and ask for help if they need it. Awareness can go a long way in preventing problems."

BBB, meanwhile, has launched a new #AdTruth campaign to highlight common schemes companies use to lure in business and inform shoppers about how to truly find the best deals.

As more purchasing moves to the internet, BBB is also providing information about how to determine if a website or advertising emails are credible.

DSW: Third-quarter sales increased 4.7% to \$697 million compared to the same period last year, when sales decreased 2%, the company reported.

The Columbus-based footwear and accessories retailer also reported net income of \$39 million, or \$0.47 per diluted share. The total includes pre-tax charges from the acquisition of Ebays, which is another footwear retailer.

"This quarter reflects the first step in our return to year-over-year earnings growth," CEO Roger Rawlins said "After four consecutive declines, we reported a 16% increase in Adjusted Earnings Per Share this quarter."

"Tighter inventory management drove improvements in gross margin which, combined with effective expense management, resulted in an increase in net income," he continued. "We've reduced clearance markdowns and we are positioned to generate more profitable sales in the holiday season."

Governor's Appointment

Northeast Ohio Medical University Board of Trustees: E. Douglas Beach of Northfield (Summit Co.) for a term beginning Nov. 22 and ending Sept. 21, 2024.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-037. Requested by Athens County Prosecuting Attorney Keller J. Blackburn.
SYLLABUS:

1. A secret service officer appointed pursuant to R.C. 309.07 may serve as a member of a board of township trustees, provided that in his capacity as a township trustee he refrains from participating in any discussions, deliberations, negotiations, or votes under R.C. 309.09(B) to retain legal counsel other than the prosecuting attorney to advise or represent the township, and in his capacity as a secret service officer he shall not be permitted or required to conduct any criminal investigatory activities or functions in connection with criminal charges that may be brought by the prosecuting attorney or other prosecuting authority against officers or employees of the township.
2. A legal secretary appointed pursuant to R.C. 309.06 may serve as a member of a board of township trustees, provided that in her capacity as a township trustee she refrains from participating in any discussions, deliberations, negotiations, or votes under R.C. 309.09(B) to retain legal counsel other than the prosecuting attorney to advise or represent the township.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, November 29

Power Siting Board, Rm. 11B, 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30

Aerospace & Aviation Technology Committee, Rm. 122, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, November 28

Auditor of State Dave Yost media availability on open enrollment, Auditor of State Ceremonial Office, Statehouse, Columbus, 2 p.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, November 23

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

No events scheduled.

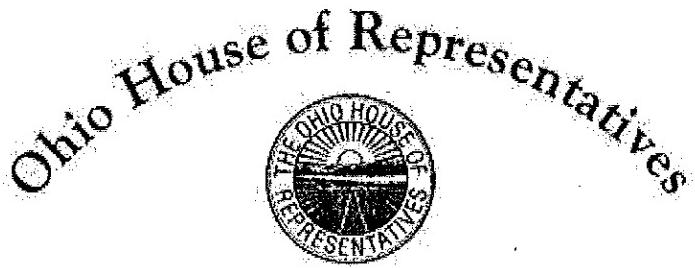
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From: Hucke, Justin
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 2:12 PM
To: Hucke, Justin
CC: House_All
Subject: Co-sponsor Request: Online Checkbook



To: All House Members
From: Representatives Dever and Greenspan
Date: Friday, January 27, 2017
RE: Co-sponsor Request: Online Checkbook

In the near future, we plan to reintroduce legislation that will codify a state government expenditure database. This measure is identical to House Bill 46 of the 131st General Assembly, which **passed the House of Representatives in April of 2015 unanimously with 74 co-sponsors**.

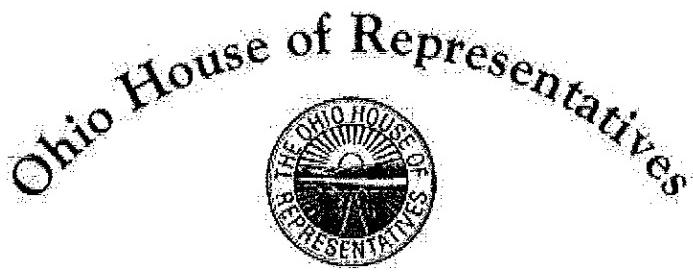
Throughout the legislative process, this legislation had no opponents and attracted broad bipartisan support from organizations including the Buckeye Institute, Ohio Public Research Interest Group, and the Ohio Newspaper Association.

Using existing authority, in December 2014, Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel unveiled www.ohiocheckbook.com, an easily accessible, searchable database of state expenditures for our taxpayers to hold state government accountable for spending. The new website, arguably the best of its kind in the Nation, reflects the intent of this legislation, but it could readily be taken down by a future treasurer of state. Through this legislation, future treasurers, regardless of political affiliation or commitment to transparency, must maintain this important tool that already is providing more accountable government to our state's residents.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding its content, please contact Justin Hucke at 466-8120 or Justin.Hucke@ohiohouse.gov or Bill White at 466-0961 or Bill.White@ohiohouse.gov. The deadline for co-sponsoring this bill is Friday, February 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

From: Hucke, Justin
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:32 PM
To: Hucke, Justin
CC: White, Bill
Subject: REMINDER: Co-sponsor Request: Online Checkbook

REMINDER: Deadline to co-sponsor is TOMORROW at 5pm!



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From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:51 PM
To: DL_Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Monday, March 27, 2017

Monday, March 27, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Conference Committee Approves Transportation Budget with 4-2 Vote](#)
- [Poll Finds 2016 Ideological Divisions Remain among Ohio Voters](#)
- [Kasich Addresses AHCA Withdrawal on CNN Sunday, Calls Divisiveness 'Pathetic'](#)
- [Controlling Board Approves Agenda with Rare Lack of Holds from Legislators](#)
- [JCARR Hears Rules Changes on Shaving, Hunting, Case Management, Casinos](#)
- [Shale Gas Production Ends Three-Year Climb](#)
- [Kasich Administration Announces \\$4.3 million in New Tax Credits](#)
- [OSU Touts New Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus](#)
- [Stateline: Lawmakers Look to Curb Foreign Influence in State Elections](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ECOT](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Ohio GOP](#)
- [Ohio Digest: Buckeye Institute](#)
- [Campus Chronicle: Lanzinger Papers](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Commercial Dockets](#)
- [Legislative Schedule Changes](#)

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From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:48 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora
CC: Springhetti, Blake
Subject: PR ALERT: Merrin HB 169 (sending at 410)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
March 29, 2017

Contact: Blake Springhetti
(614) 466-1731

Rep. Merrin's Bill Ends State Employees' Insurance Free Ride

COLUMBUS—State Representative Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) introduced House Bill 169, which would require many state employees to effectively pay 15 percent of the total cost for their dental, vision, and basic life insurance premiums. The legislation impacts exempt state employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements, including state legislators, agency directors, and executive staff.

State employees currently contribute zero percent toward their dental, vision, and life insurance benefits while contributing 15 percent toward their medical insurance premiums. House Bill 169 requires the same percentage be paid for dental, vision, and life insurance that employees pay for their medical insurance premiums.

"The free ride for state employees must end. Many private-sector employees are not even offered dental and vision benefits – let alone absolutely free," said Representative Merrin.

House Bill 169 is projected to save taxpayers over \$2.6 million annually. Also, the legislation instructs the state to seek the same provision while negotiating future collective bargaining agreements that govern about 35,900 unionized state employees that pay zero percent for their dental, vision, and life insurance benefits. If unionized state employees paid 15 percent for their dental, vision, and life insurance premiums, the state would save an additional \$4.7 million annually.

"State employees already receive a great bargain by paying only 15 percent for their medical insurance," Merrin said. "At the very least, they should pay 15 percent for their dental, vision, and basic life insurance benefits too."

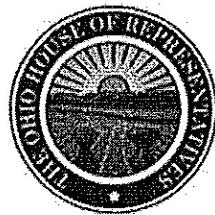
Greg Lawson, Senior Policy Analyst with The Buckeye Institute, said, "Asking state employees to put some 'skin in the game' like practically all private sector workers is not too much to ask. We must contain health care costs and assure fairness for all Ohioans."

Eligible state employees qualify for dental, vision, and life insurance after completing one year of service with the state. As of March, 2017, approximately 13,000 exempt state employees were covered under the state's dental, vision, and basic life insurance plans.

House Bill 169 is co-sponsored by 15 state representatives and awaits committee designation.

For more information, please contact Blake Springhetti at 614-466-1731 or
Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov.

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:57 AM
To: Miller, Brad; Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora; Cho, Joy
Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)



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Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra; Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora; Cho, Joy
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

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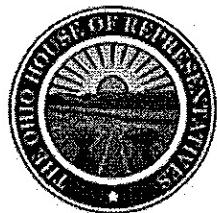
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Looks good. Can we include the Romanchuk column from last week as well? And the two columns below... for some reason, google search does not pick up on a lot of our columns...

<http://www.timesreporter.com/opinion/20170618/local-perspective-legislation-strengthens-our-families-and-communities>

<http://www.wnewsj.com/opinion/columns/44479/wilmingtons-indeed-split-tacular>

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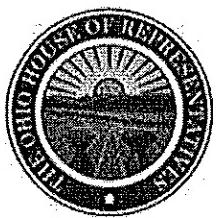
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The bill was introduced earlier this year by Springfield Republican Representative Kyle Kehler and Toledo Democratic Representative Mike Ashford.

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From: Slack, Cora
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Miller, Brad; Westlake, Libby; Cho, Joy
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

Here's the link to the Romanchuk column:

http://www.richlandsource.com/opinion/romanchuk-remembering-the-significance-of-the-flag/article_ef66a680-4f77-11e7-8e12-9725e86e333a.html

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:49 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

Looks good. Can we include the Romanchuk column from last week as well? And the two columns below... for some reason, google search does not pick up on a lot of our columns...

<http://www.timesreporter.com/opinion/20170618/local-perspective-legislation-strengthens-our-families-and-communities>

<http://www.wnewsj.com/opinion/columns/44479/wilmingtons-indeed-split-tacular>

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

I'll remove those 2 and update Faber's.

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:05 AM

To: Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

I'd say take out the article in question.

Daily Advocate: (Guest column from Rep. Keith Faber:) Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

>I never include anything from Akron Legal News – their articles are usually several weeks behind relevance.

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:57 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2).



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Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/12/17 – 6/18/17

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Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 3:36 PM
To: Slack, Cora; Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Miller, Brad; Cho, Joy
Subject: UPDATED Week in Review



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Add Dayton Daily News. Then looks good to me.

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Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 4:53 PM
Subject: GOP Week in Review 6/12/17 – 6/18/17



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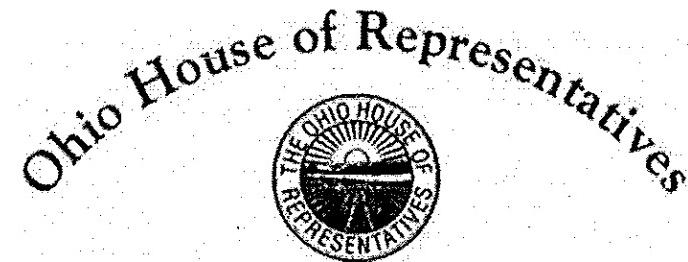
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From: Rep87
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2017 1:35 PM
To: GOP_All
Subject: Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Freeze Information
Attachments: Freeze Brief.pdf; We The People Convention Expansion Freeze Poll.pdf



Memorandum

To: House Republican Caucus
From: Representative Wes Goodman
Date: June 30th, 2017
Re: Medicaid Expansion Enrollment Freeze Information

I would first of all like to everyone who has offered their support to the Medicaid expansion enrollment freeze. As I said on this House floor, this is the most impactful action taken by any state to roll back and stop the Affordable Care Act, fulfilling promises we have all made to ensure a higher quality of care for all Ohioans. I thank you for your courage in joining me in the fight to ensure that our citizens are free to make their own healthcare choices, and that our Medicaid program is refocused on serving the truly vulnerable.

By now I am sure you have heard from detractors claiming that the freeze is not in the best interest of Ohioans. I encourage you to take a look at the following resources that support our decision and make clear that an expansion freeze is sound public policy.

- Attached: *Freeze Brief*, provides a general outline and talking points on the expansion freeze.
- Attached: *We the People Convention Expansion Freeze Poll*. This poll was taken yesterday, June 29th, and shows that 60.6% of all Ohioans and 81% of

all Republicans do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the expansion freeze.

- Articles by Buckeye Institute Executive Vice President Rea Hederman Jr, published in The Hill
 - Highlighting issues with the sustainability and level of care provided by Medicaid: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/336600-medicare-doesnt-work-people-who-are-on-it-dont-have-better>
 - Highlighting and analyzing Ohio's role in "blazing the trail" on Medicaid reform: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/339889-ohio-is-blazing-the-trail-on-healthcare-reform>
- National Review article analyzing the fallaciousness of the bombastic claim, "people will die!":
<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/448952/obamacare-repeal-will-not-kill-thousands>
 - Note that this article is focuses on the claims being made about the Federal healthcare plans. This claim is even more detached from reality when used to decry our expansion freeze, which allows those currently covered to maintain coverage as long as they are eligible.
- Article by Foundation for Government Accountability VP of Research Jonathan Ingram, explaining how the expansion has drawn funding away from the truly vulnerable: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/320620-freezing-obamacare-expansion-will-save-taxpayers-and-the-truly>
- Article by Foundation for Government Accountability Senior Fellow Sam Adolphsen, presenting evidence that the expansion may actually exacerbate the opioid crisis: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/state-local-politics/339892-want-to-end-the-opioid-epidemic-start-by-freezing>
- Poll from the Foundation for Government Accountability, showing that voters support freezing the Medicaid expansion: <https://thefga.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/National-MedEx-Freeze-Poll-1-23-17.pdf>
- An op-ed that I recently penned that was published by the Daily Signal: <http://dailysignal.com/2017/06/30/ohio-already-rolling-back-parts-obamacare-states-can/>

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to joining you next week to override the Governor's veto, if need be.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance to you. My cell phone is (419) 210-0800 and I am available for questions anytime.

Sincerely,

Wes

Medicaid Expansion Freeze Brief

What the Freeze Does

- Prohibits the Medicaid program from covering the Group VIII (expansion) population beginning on July 1, 2018.
- Exempts those with diagnosed mental illnesses or drug addiction, allowing them to enroll after the freeze date.
- Allows those expansion enrollees enrolled by July 1, 2018 to maintain their coverage until they become ineligible or the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for the Group VIII population is reduced by federal legislation.

Freezing expansion protects the truly needy

- Ohio's Medicaid waiting list enrollment sits at nearly 60,000. These are Ohioans with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities who aren't getting the care they need.
- Meanwhile, Ohio is spending billions on welfare for able-bodied (mostly childless) adults.
- Every penny spent on these adults is a penny that can't go to help Ohio's truly vulnerable.
- An enrollment freeze would immediately begin to make the truly needy a priority once again by moving able-bodied adults back to independence and freeing up limited resources for the vulnerable.

Freezing expansion protects taxpayers

- Ohio's Medicaid expansion has been overbudget since Day One.
- From January 2014 through March 2017, total expansion costs ran \$6.1 billion higher than originally projected in 2013 – an overrun of 94 percent. By the end of the year, that overrun will total a whopping \$8.3 billion.
- State taxpayers are now on the hook for 5% of these costs, with that share growing to 10% by 2020. Although the state has only been paying a share of the cost for a few months, the state's share has already run \$38 million over projections – an overrun of 125 percent. That overrun is projected to increase to \$145 million by the end of the year.
- Congress is poised to repeal the enhanced funding for expansion altogether. The House version of the American Healthcare Act (AHCA) would eliminate enhanced funding for new enrollees after 2020. The Senate version eliminates enhanced funding through a 3-year phase out, beginning in 2021.
- An enrollment freeze would stop the bleeding immediately, reducing costs and giving taxpayers much-needed relief. Based on the experiences in other states, freezing expansion enrollment at the end of the fiscal year will save between \$4.2 billion and \$5.5 billion over the next biennium. The state share of those savings would total between \$243 million and \$315 million.

-Freezing expansion protects enrollees

- An enrollment freeze would allow current enrollees to stay on the program as long as they remain eligible.
- This avoids disruption for enrollees, allowing them to maintain enrollment until their situation improves enough that they can obtain insurance through the individual market or an employer.

Freezing expansion is politically popular

- A national 2017 poll found that voters support freezing Medicaid expansion enrollment by nearly two-to-one margins (53% to 33%).

Freezing expansion is practical and possible

- Other states have used enrollment freezes to unwind pre-ObamaCare expansions to childless adults and to unwind S-CHIP expansions.
- Freezes were previously approved by President Bush and President Obama.
- CMS can grant a waiver to allow states to freeze enrollment.
- CMS is set to release new guidance that will provide state options to freeze enrollment and reduce eligibility levels in the expansion.

Freezing expansion would have no effect on the drug addicted and mentally ill

- Mental health and addiction services accounted for only 5.62% of total expansion spending in 2016.
- Conference committee's version of the budget exempts individuals with mental health and drug addictions from the freeze, allowing them to enroll or reenroll past the freeze date of July 1, 2018.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, June 29, 2017

POLL SHOWS OHIOANS – ESPECIALLY REPUBLICANS – DEMAND MEDICAID EXPANSION FREEZE

Akron, OH – Tom Zawistowski, President of the We the People Convention announced the results of a statewide Ohio poll tonight concerning the Medicaid Expansion Freeze that was included in the Budget just passed on Wednesday by the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate. Contrary to polls put out by medical groups and others who benefit financially from Medicaid Expansion, the We the People Convention Poll shows that 60.6% of all Ohioans do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze in the budget, which does not cut anyone's Medicaid benefits, but simply stops growing the program that is already \$7 Billion over budget. Furthermore, the survey showed that if Governor Kasich does line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze, a plurality of all Ohioans, 51.7% to 49.3%, said that they would want the Ohio House and Ohio Senate to reconvene next week and override the Governor's veto.

Since the state is controlled by Republicans and the Budget was pass with only Republican votes, all of them from Governor Kasich, to Speaker Rosenberger and Senate President Obhof, and every Republican in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, will get a very strong message from the poll results from their Republican voters. A total of 81% of Republican voters do NOT want Governor Kasich to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze. Then an equally strong 68.5% of Republican voters want Republicans in the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate to Override the Governor's Veto if required.

Commenting on the poll, Zawistowski said, "Ohioans understand that Governor Kasich's Medicaid Expansion is simply unsustainable. We credit the Republican members of the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, and their leadership, for recognizing that someone has to stop Kasich before he bankrupts Ohio. While we in the TEA Party/Liberty movement believe that Medicaid Expansion should be ended – its not Medicaid it is welfare expansion – we were convinced that a first step of just stopping the growth of the program, without cutting anyone's benefits, was a "caring way" to take a first step as our Governor likes to say. We fully expect him to line-item veto the Medicaid Expansion Freeze because John Kasich sees no reason to ever stop giving other people's money away while pretending he cares so much about people – but never mentioning the tax payers who pay for all his misguided spending. Therefore, we also fully expect, and all Republicans should expect, all 59 House Members who voted for the budget with the Freeze in it on Wednesday, and ALL 7 members who did not vote for the budget, to join all 23 members of the Senate next Thursday, July 6th and impose some financial sanity on the Governor by overriding his veto and representing their constituents – particularly the tax payers in their districts who are paying the bill for this irresponsible and unnecessary spending."

This Ohio poll was conducted for the We the People Convention, Inc. by TRZ Communications Services, Inc. of Akron, Ohio which was the polling company that first predicted the Trump Ohio landslide victory in last year's Presidential election. This automated poll was conducted on Thursday, June 29, 2017 between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. The poll was designed to gather public opinion on the issue of Freezing Medicaid Expansion in Ohio. Calls were placed to 45,105 randomly selected voters from our data base of 4.5 million current land line phone numbers in Ohio. Of the 9,901 who answered our call, 625 respondents completed our automated poll, a 6.3% response rate. The poll has a margin of error of \pm 4.0% at the 95% confidence level. Demographically 26.99% of respondents vote Democrat, 29.6% vote Republican and 43% do not affiliate with any party. The gender breakdown was 57.68% women and 42.32% men. Results were gathered from 80 of the 88 Counties in Ohio. Every age group from 24 year olds to 90 year olds were surveyed.

Answer	Number	Percent	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Veto the Freeze	246	39.4%	35 - 19%	90 - 52.3%	121 - 45%
Do NOT Veto the Freeze	379	60.6%	149 - 81%	82 - 47.7%	148 - 55%
Override the Veto	317	51.7%	126 - 68.5%	65 - 37.8%	126 - 46.8%
Do NOT Override the Veto	308	49.3%	58 - 31.5%	107 - 62.2%	142 - 53.2%

Source: <http://www.wethepeopleconvention.org/>

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2017 5:54 PM
To: Slack, Cora
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, August 18, 2017
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Volume #86, Report #160 -- Friday, August 18, 2017

Reducing Regulations Among Legislative Priorities For Fall

With the biennial budget, veto overrides notwithstanding, in the rearview mirror, Senate President Larry Obhof hopes his chamber will work on legislation designed to make life easier for businesses.

One way the Medina Republican plans to do that is not by adding new laws, but by removing or simplifying old ones.

"We'll focus on getting government red tape and regulation out of the way and hopefully continue to build our economy and build off the improvements we've made the last few years," Sen. Obhof said this week.



Sen. Obhof

One of the priorities for the Senate Republicans leader includes finding bits of regulation that are burdensome for business and aren't working the way they're supposed to. He said he wanted each member of his caucus to find examples of failing regulation and work to fix them, whether by eliminating language or streamlining it.

"We talk a lot on the campaign trail, both parties do, about getting red tape and regulations out of the way," he said. "When you get to work, people start to pass new laws and regulations."

"We ought to all go out and find one example of something that's not working right and get rid of it," he continued. "They don't have to be big things, necessarily, but the more things like that that we do, you're slowly but surely making it easier for some small business owners."

Even if the change doesn't affect every Ohioan, he said, it could be significant for the few it does affect.

"I think we're going to be pretty serious this fall about trying to get rid of parts of the Ohio Revised Code, scale them back, make them easier to understand, easier to read, removing some of the hurdles government has put in the way of our job creators," he said.

Other priorities for the fall include economic development, the opioid crisis and workforce development, he said.

The Senate will be in session Tuesday, with the agenda expected to focus heavily on budget veto overrides. More override votes are possible in September, Sen. Obhof said.

The chamber will also see some committee action Tuesday, including the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, which will hear a bill (SB 164) to ban abortions based on a Down syndrome diagnosis.

On the House side, the post-budget plan is still in the works, said Brad Miller, a spokesman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville).

"Legislative priorities for the fall are still under consideration and will be the product of conversations and input between the Speaker and members of the caucus," Mr. Miller said in an email.

Some of the House's work could stem from the speaker's task forces, some of which have begun their work, including one on education and poverty (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 17, 2017) and another on Alzheimer's and dementia (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 8, 2017).

High Court Sets Oral Arguments In Abortion Cases

The state's highest court will hear two high-profile abortion cases in September, including one that has triggered calls for a justice's recusal.

Both cases stem from abortion-related provisions in the 2014-15 state budget (HB59 130th General Assembly).

The first case, set to be heard on Sept. 12, was brought to the high court by the Department of Health, which has defended the constitutionality of restrictions imposed on a Toledo abortion clinic. (Docket)

The case is the result of a 2014 department decision to shutter the city's last abortion clinic, Capital Care Network of Toledo, after it determined a patient transfer agreement it had inked with an Ann Arbor hospital ran afoul of state law because the facility was not "local."

However, both the Lucas County Common Pleas Court and the Sixth District Court of Appeals sided with the clinic, which has remained open.

ODH argues that the decision to shutter the clinic was lawful, the one-subject rule was not violated by placing the requirement in the budget, the clinic did not raise an "undue burden" challenge and the ambulatory requirement is constitutional.

The "undue burden" standard, which was used by the lower courts to strike down the requirement, was created by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

However, ODH argues that the high court should not view the case through that lens because the clinic did not raise the issue.

"The court should vacate the undue burden holding and set the issue aside, as the clinic never raised such a challenge. And as part of not raising it as a legal issue, the clinic also never presented any factual evidence to meet its burden to overcome the law," ODH wrote in a court filing.

"Vacating the holding still allows this clinic or any other abortion clinic to raise an undue burden challenge in a separate case, and indeed, at least two clinics are doing so in a federal case."

Among the clinic's arguments are that the 2013 budget violated the single-subject rule, that the provision amounts to an undue burden and that it is unconstitutional.

"The three transfer agreement provisions were introduced late in the legislative process as riders to the budget bill with little or no opportunity for public debate. At the end of the state budget process Ohio legislators buried controversial anti-abortion provisions in the several thousand pages of a budget bill that was sure to pass," the brief reads.

"The written transfer agreement provisions, which are inherently controversial and of significant constitutional import, were not debated and approved during a fair and open legislative process. HB59 frustrates the single-subject rule's purpose of preventing logrolling and ensuring 'a more orderly and fair legislative process.'"

The case already stirred controversy after Justice Sharon Kennedy spoke at a Greater Toledo Right to Life event in March. That led NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio to unsuccessfully call on her to recuse herself in the case.

This week, Capital Care attorney Jennifer Branch made an official request for Justice Kennedy's recusal in a filing with the court.

"Since this court accepted jurisdiction in this case, Justice Kennedy's impartiality in deciding this case involving an abortion provider has been reasonably questioned by various Ohioans due to her connections to anti-abortion and pro-life organizations," the attorney wrote.

ProgressOhio also filed an ethics complaint against Justice Kennedy that was recently dismissed.

The second case, slated for oral arguments on Sept. 26, was also brought forward by the state after two lower courts found a Cleveland-based clinic had standing to sue over several abortion-related provisions in the budget bill. (Docket)

Along with the transfer agreement provision, Preterm-Cleveland has also taken issue with a ban on public hospitals from entering into those agreements and a requirement that doctors inform pregnant women about a detectable heartbeat.

"Preterm's change of conduct to avoid running afoul of these new requirements constitutes injury-in-fact for standing purposes, traceable to the enactment of HB59," its brief reads. "Its requested relief - an order declaring that HB59 violates the one-subject rule and severing and enjoining the provisions it has shown create disunity - will redress Preterm's injury and cure the identified constitutional defect."

The state, however, argues that the abortion clinic does not have standing to sue because it has not been able to demonstrate that it has been injured by the budget provisions.

"Ohio's Constitution allows courts to hear only justiciable controversies involving parties with standing, so relaxing the rules is unconstitutional. Applying the rules here is straightforward: Preterm must show standing as to each provision it challenges, and it fails on all counts," the state's brief reads.

Few Districts Meet Recommendation To Delay Start Of School Day

Most students heading back to school over the next few weeks won't be reporting to first period any later than in past years, despite district attempts to accommodate research that shows later start times can be beneficial to student health.

Various districts throughout the state report studying later start times in the last few years, but a recent accounting of states where schools have made changes doesn't include Ohio.

Schools in at least 19 states delayed starting bell times for the new academic year, according to a Start School Later report. They include a handful of schools in the surrounding states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.

"Every year we see more and more schools delaying bell times to improve student sleep, health, and learning," Start School Later Executive Director Terra Ziporyn Snider said. "Not all of them will be starting middle and high schools at 8:30 or later, as health professionals recommend, but they are moving to schedules that are healthier and safer for many more students."

The American Academy of Pediatrics, National PTA, American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Society of Pediatric Nurses are among the groups backing later start times.

Although Ohio doesn't keep track of when districts are starting the day, Start School Later has determined that about 7:30 a.m. is the most common time for middle and high school students to head to first period. The national average is 7:59 a.m., according to the CDC.

Those times conflict with research that shows students, particularly teens, get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Stacy Simera, a spokeswoman for Start School Later, said students who lack sleep are more likely to be obese, have trouble focusing in school, suffer sports injuries, be involved in car accidents, and become addicted to drugs, among other issues.

The connection between additional sleep for teens and improved health and academic outcomes has caught the attention of district leaders, but resulting changes to bell schedules in Ohio have been few and far between. Districts often point to increased costs as the reason for maintaining the status quo.

Olentangy Local School District, which is the seventh largest district in the state, is among those that studied the possibility of later start times over the last few years, but chose not to move forward with them. It announced over the summer that changes would require purchasing an additional 141 school buses at a cost of \$12.5 million and adding \$7.8 million in annual operating costs.

Like others who've looked into making moves, the district also determined that parents of elementary students don't support earlier start times for their students so that later middle and high school times can be accommodated.

Bus schedules and concerns about child care "are two of the principal challenges in terms of trying to move the start times," said Tom Ash, director of governmental relations for the Buckeye Association of School Administrators.

"You have districts that, in order to economize (busing), have what are known as double, triple and even quadruple runs, so they might even be serving two, three or four schools with kids of different ages," he said. "So that becomes an issue."

Mr. Ash said districts aren't dismissing the research on earlier start times, they're just simply running into roadblocks to implement them.

There are districts that have modified start times without increased costs, though, Ms. Simera contended. If there are costs, she said that they shouldn't be a deal breaker.

"Not only can every school afford healthy start times, schools can no longer afford not to. As an Ohio taxpayer and mental health clinician, it concerns me that we are ignoring such low-hanging fruit in fighting two Ohio-specific epidemics: obesity and substance abuse - both of which are correlated with chronic deficient sleep," she said.

"While we know there are many factors involved in obesity and substance abuse, we should certainly address one of the known factors that we can greatly influence - namely healthy sleep."

According to Start School Later, districts that have pushed back start times without incurring additional costs include Hudson, Dublin, Kenston, and Perrysburg schools. Westlake and Parma schools also pushed back start times when they eliminated busing for high school students.

Ohio Unemployment Rate Moves Up To 5.2%

The biggest increases occurred in leisure and hospitality (+5,200), local government (+3,900) and financial activities (+1,200) sectors. July's biggest losses were in goods-producing industries (-2,700) and business services (-2,400).

Over the last 12 months, Ohio added 47,500 jobs, led by private service providers (37,700) and construction (5,900), ODJFS reported. The larger drops occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,900) and durable goods manufacturing (-1,800).

Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at the Buckeye Institute, said that along with the labor market dip, Ohioans stopped looking for work as labor force participation fell to national levels at 62.9%.

"In addition, private sector job opportunities continued the stream of bad news, with 2,500 fewer private sector jobs in July compared to June," he said.

"Overall, the Ohio July jobs report is a sober one," Mr. Hederman said. "While one month of data can be a statistical anomaly, policymakers should begin considering measures to increase economic opportunities in Ohio's private sector."

Policy Matters Ohio observed that without the growth in public sector jobs, the state would have lost positions last month. The group reiterated its criticisms of GOP tax policies in recent years.

"State tax giveaways to corporations and the wealthy have not produced the promised job growth. Instead, we have lost the revenue we need to invest in policies like need-based college financial aid that help build the middle class," PMO researcher Hannah Halbert said. "Federal policymakers would be well-served by studying Ohio's performance before implementing tax changes that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest in the nation."

Roechner Announces Senate Bid; Buckeye Institute Opines On Potential Veto Overrides...

Rep. Kristina Roechner announced her intent to run for the Senate seat currently occupied by term-limited Sen. Frank LaRose.

The Hudson Republican, who is term limited in the House, said her goals if elected to the Senate would be much the same as her priorities in her current seat representing the 37th House District.

"It would absolutely be the same as it's been in the House," she said. "Continue to help set a stage that's inviting to businesses in Ohio and that includes regulatory reform which I've done a lot of in individual industries."

Making the tax climate more competitive with other states by lowering taxes and strengthening the education system would also be priorities, the representative said. So too would be legislation like her pending cosmetology bill (HB 189) which she said would "make it easier and smoother for people to get jobs and not jump through so many hurdles in government."

"I'm going to continue the work we've started and continue that onto the Senate," she said. "I want to make sure government doesn't waste taxpayer dollars. If we can spend taxpayer dollars smarter and get more for it that's what we need to do."

The 27th Senate District encompasses all of Wayne County and parts of Summit and Stark. Other incumbent House members whose districts align with that district include term-limited Rep. Marilyn Slaby and freshman Rep. Scott Wiggam.

Rep. Roegner reported receiving \$78,000 since January in her recent semiannual report, leaving her with about \$78,700 in cash on hand.

Veto Overrides: The Buckeye Institute is weighing in on several outstanding budget veto overrides the Senate may take up next week.

Senators are expected to return Tuesday to consider some of the 11 overrides the House approved in July. How many overrides and which specifically the chamber will choose to take up isn't clear. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 16, 2017)

Among overrides the Institute is urging senators to approve are the governor's vetoes of the Healthy Ohio waiver and of language creating legislative oversight of Medicaid spending increases.

But the group is asking senators to let stand the governor's veto on the Medicaid managed care sales tax replacement plan.

"We agree with Gov. Kasich's veto of the proposed replacement for local Medicaid sales tax revenues and we were disappointed that the Ohio House overrode the governor's veto," said Greg Lawson, an institute research fellow. "This proposal is a tax on insurance plans and as with most government taxes, it is highly unlikely that this new tax will be 'temporary.' It is time for local governments to go to their voters and convince them of the need to raise local taxes for local services rather than blaming Columbus for their inability to spend wisely."

Issue 2: Proponents of the controversial Issue 2 - also known as the "Drug Price Relief Act" - praised ballot language approved by the Ballot Board Thursday.

Yes on Issue 2 and its counterpart, Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue, negotiated compromise ballot language that the board then signed off on with little discussion. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 17, 2017)

Both sides said the language presented an accurate description of the November ballot issue, which would prohibit the state from purchasing prescription drugs for prices beyond what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pays.

"Voters in Ohio are well-informed, smart and angry at the greedy drug companies that have been price-gouging the sick and suffering, and putting profits before patients," said Dennis Willard, a spokesman for the proponents. "The language is simple and straightforward just like our plan to lower drug prices for 4 million Ohioans and save taxpayers \$400 million a year."

Opponents claim the statute, if adopted by voters, would actually drive the cost of drugs higher.

OSU Study: \$152M In Lost Property Value Thanks To Algal Blooms...

Harmful algal blooms in Ohio have cost homeowners \$152 million in lost property value over the last six years, according to researchers.

That figure comes from a new Ohio State University study that examined the financial impacts of blooms in Buckeye Lake and Grand Lake St. Marys. A second study quantified the financial impact of blooms to sport fishing revenue generated by Lake Erie.

OSU bills the reports, published respectively in *Ecological Economics* and the *Journal of Environmental Management* as the first of their kind to put a dollar figure on the impact of algae. Researchers said they hope the studies will equip lawmakers with new information to create adequate algae prevention and cleanup resources.

"Our biggest takeaway is that efforts to prevent and mitigate algal blooms have real, tangible benefits for Ohioans, including property values," said Allen Klaiber, associate professor of agricultural, environmental and development economics at OSU.

The first study examines property values in the two interior lakes, finding that total values fell \$152 million from 2009-2015. Sales prices for homes within one-third of a mile from the lake fell 11-17% while adjacent homes saw prices dropping more than 22%, the report found.

In Buckeye Lake the drop was more severe, with the loss of \$101 million in home sales over six years. Grand Lake St. Marys saw a \$51 million loss.

Regarding Lake Erie, which fuels a \$1.7 billion tourism industry, simulations showed a "moderate" bloom would result in a 10-13% decrease in fishing license sales within 12 miles of the lake.

A severe bloom, akin to what occurred in 2011, would lead to 3,600 fewer licenses sold and as much as \$5.6 million in lost revenue in a single summer, the researchers determined.

Governor Appointment Reaction: The Ohio Environmental Council praised Gov. John Kasich's recent appointment of Sarah Spence to the Public Benefits Advisory Board. Ms. Spence is OEC's director of government affairs and was appointed this week.

"The board works with the director of the development services agency to ensure energy services are provided to low-income consumers in Ohio in an affordable manner," said Aryeh Alex, the OEC's vice president of public affairs. "Sarah is the right person for the job, and will add a strong environmental voice to the governor's administration."

Rover: A cease-and-desist order from the government of West Virginia was recently lifted, clearing the Rover Pipeline project to continue. That's over the objections of environmental groups who argue the project is harming the environment.

Meanwhile, a new *Bloomberg* analysis determined that the Rover project has set a new record for environmental violations. The publication determined the project, since its approval in February, has racked up more violations than any other major interstate natural gas pipeline built in the last two years.

Rover filings showed 104 negative inspection reports, according to *Bloomberg*. The next closest was the Williams' Virginia Southside Expansion which reported 26 violations.

To be fair, the 710-mile Rover is a longer pipeline than other projects included in the analysis. Still, the next longest - the 515-mile Enbridge Sabal Trail - reported 18 violations.

Energy Transfer Partners, the company behind the project, said it is working with regulatory agencies at all levels to meet safety and environmental regulations. But friction continues between the company, opponents and regulatory agencies in Ohio and beyond. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 7, 2017)

Report Links STEM Skills, Quality Pre-K; President Approves GI Bill Expansion...

Business and military leaders are calling on state leaders to focus on early childhood education to ensure students are better prepared to enter the future workforce.

They joined Council for Strong America this week to release a new report highlighting the correlation between high-quality Pre-K and STEM skills.

The analysis also details projections for STEM workforce growth - an area that military and tech business stakeholders said during a Dayton press conference is a major concern. Health and computer technology industries are expected to grow by as much as 37% nationwide in the coming years, they said.

Currently, 65% of eighth graders aren't proficient in math and 60% aren't proficient in science, the report shows. About one-third of college students, meanwhile, require remediation in math or English.

"As a result, employers - both in the private sector and the military - are struggling to find the STEM skilled workforce they need," the authors of the report wrote. "That is why business and military leaders in Ohio are calling on policymakers to invest more in high-quality early education where STEM skills take root."

According to the report, research shows that individuals with early exposure to math have improved abilities in the subject area later on and that early learning supports cognitive abilities as well as social and emotional skills that are beneficial in STEM career fields.

"The young people we will seek to recruit for the military, postsecondary education, and private sector jobs in less than 15 years should be entering pre-K today," former

Adjutant General Deborah Ashenhurst said in a statement. "A greater investment in high-quality pre-K will have lasting impact for our children, for Ohio, and for our nation."

GI Bill: The president this week signed bipartisan legislation to expand education opportunities to post-9/11 veterans and restore GI Bill benefits to those who attended now-defunct technical colleges.

The bill removes a 15-year time limit on the benefits, allowing veterans and their dependents to use them for life. Among other things, it also extends eligibility for reservists, provides full benefits for Purple Heart recipients and increases GI Bill payments by \$2,300 per year for veterans with less than 12 months of active service.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland), who helped draft the measure, applauded its enactment.

In particular, he pushed for provisions that restore benefits to veterans who attended shuttered career technical colleges and alert veterans to schools offering priority enrollment

"Ohio veterans deserve better than to have the rug pulled out from under them by for-profit colleges," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "This bill is an important step towards rectifying the fraudulent practices of these schools and restoring and expanding the GI benefits our veterans have earned."

The measure also expands eligibility for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Yellow Ribbon Program to spouses and children of service members who died in combat. The program that helps students avoid out-of-pocket college costs above their GI Bill benefits is currently available only to veterans and spouses and children of service members.

Insurance: An insurance checklist for college students and their parents is now available from the Department of Insurance.

The checklist details insurance options for illness and injury, dental and eye care, personal protections and liability, renters and vehicles.

"Life away from home is a great opportunity for young adults to learn and grow, but it also presents considerations and challenges," ODI Director Jillian Froment said. "It is important that students and parents conduct an insurance review and consider including an insurance agent in the process."

Survey: The Ohio Department of Education is seeking input on proposed updates to Ohio's model curriculum for English and math in grades K-12. An online survey will be open through Sept. 13.

The model curriculum, which is set to go before the State Board of Education for approval this fall, will serve as a guide for teachers to help them better understand the

knowledge and skills required under Ohio's Learning Standards - the basis for state tests.

Agency Briefs: RFP Issued For Marijuana Monitoring System; AG; SOS; EPA; BWC; MHAS; DNR

The state's Medical Marijuana Control Program is seeking a contractor for a system to monitor video surveillance at growers, processors and dispensaries.

The Department of Commerce issued the request for proposals this week as the program's rules, which cleared the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review at the end of July, were officially filed.

The rules go into effect Sept. 8. They cleared JCARR after a nearly yearlong development process that began following the program's enabling legislation, which went into effect last fall. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 31, 2017)

The RFP for the video management system requires one that can accept feeds from any camera operator and allow the state to see inside facilities at any time.

"Given an initial camera population of over 1,000 cameras across an Ohio medical marijuana entity facility population of 100+ facilities, the State requires an efficient means of monitoring camera operational status as well as an efficient path for identifying a particular camera at a particular facility for real-time camera viewing," the state said in its description.

Attorney General: Mike DeWine and attorneys general from 49 other states and territories urged Congress to amend the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to clarify that states and local governments can investigate and prosecute facilitators of child sex trafficking wherever they operate, including online.

"The proposed amended language to the Communications Decency Act will help to ensure that citizens and children are effectively protected throughout the entire country, in all courts," Attorney General DeWine said in a statement. "The intention of the Communications Decency Act is to protect children from indecent material online. It was never intended to place facilitators of child sex trafficking outside the reach of law enforcement."

Courts have interpreted the current language to allow only federal authorities to take action against companies that facilitate sex trafficking. The AGs urged in their letter for the law to be clarified.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced that all filings required to start or maintain a business in Ohio can now be submitted online. Owners can also submit all Uniform Commercial Code statements and certified search requests through the web, he said.

"Since day one, our office has committed itself to working on behalf of job creators and entrepreneurs to make it easier to start and maintain a business in Ohio," Secretary Husted said in a statement. "By improving the way our office does business, we are helping companies cut costs, save time, and reduce administrative burden so they can focus on providing quality services and products, as well as create jobs."

The secretary's office also announced that 8,800 new entities filed to do business in the state in July, up 1,279 compared to the previous July. A total of 71,979 entities have filed in Ohio this year.

Ohio EPA: The agency will hold a public hearing next week to receive comments on proposed water quality standards, including standards covering pesticides, dredged material and E. coli.

The hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, in the Ohio EPA Conference Center at 50 West Town Street in Columbus.

Written comments can be sent to Rules Coordinator, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, or emailed to dsw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov, through Aug. 23.

Workers' Compensation: The bureau announced that seven employers and injured workers who attempted to defraud the agency were convicted in July. The BWC's special investigations department has totaled 90 convictions so far this year.

"Workers' compensation fraud raises the cost of the system for everyone involved," said SID Director Jim Wernecke. "I hope these latest convictions serve as a reminder to those attempting to steal from BWC: We have investigators all over the state. We will find you, bring you to justice and make you repay the funds you illicitly acquired."

Mental Health and Addiction Services: The department said it is conducting a needs assessment with treatment providers as part of activities connected to the federal 21st Century CURES Act. The department is collecting information on what providers are doing and what needs they have for treating people with opioid-related disorders.

The assessment runs through Sept. 8. Providers who did not receive invitations can contact Laura Potts at laura.potts@mha.ohio.gov.

Natural Resources: The department announced it will hold special deer hunts at six state nature preserves across the state. Drawings will be held for the hunts, and entries cost \$5.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio University Board of Trustees: Stephen P. Casciani of Delaware (Delaware Co.) for a term beginning Aug. 18 and ending May 13, 2026.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, August 22

Public Facilities Commission, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Thursday, August 24

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m. (The Investment Committee will meet 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.; the Actuarial Committee 10:30 a.m. to noon; the Medical Services & Safety Committee 1 to 2 p.m.; the Governance Committee 2 to 2:30 p.m.; and the Audit Committee 2:30 to 4 p.m. The Actuarial, Governance and Audit Committee meetings may begin earlier if the preceding meeting adjourns earlier than scheduled.)

Friday, August 25

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 8 a.m.

Monday, August 28

Southern Ohio Agricultural & Community Development Foundation, 100 S. High St., Hillsboro, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, Suite 1500, 50 W. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, August 19- Monday, August 21

Legislative Committees

Monday, June 4

Canceled: Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review-(Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 121, 1:30 p.m.

Agency Calendar

Monday, August 21

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Saturday, August 19

Ohio Democratic Women's Caucus Luncheon, Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Keynote Speaker is Kathleen Sebelius. For more information contact contact Rachel Rossi (rachel@ohiodems.org))

Monday, August 21

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Urbana Country Club, 4761 US-36, Urbana, (9:00 am Registration | 10:00 am Shotgun Start | Lunch at the turn on the go | 2:30 pm Short Program. \$1,000 Tournament Sponsor; \$600 Eagle Sponsor; \$200 Hole Sponsor; \$100 Golfer)

OHROC Lake Erie Boat Cruise and Reception with Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton), and Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Fremont), Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, 5:30 p.m., (5:30pm Arrive at Catawba Island Club; 6:00pm Depart on Burger Yacht "Gemini"; 8:00pm Reception. Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to OHROC)

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Event Planner

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Thursday, August 24

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser, London Country Club, 1199 Spring Valley Rd., London, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Ace Sponsor, \$700 Eagle Sponsor, \$500 Cart Sponsorship, \$250 Hole Sponsorship, \$150 Cart Sponsorship, \$100 Tee Sponsorship, \$85 Individual to Hackett for Ohio)

Hamilton County GOP State Legislators golf outing fundraiser, Glenview Golf Course, 10965 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, 10 a.m., (\$1500 Sponsor; \$300 Hole Sponsor; \$175 Golfer)

Sunday, August 27

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) shooting fundraiser, Nagle Trucking, 4520 Moline-Martin Road, Walbridge, 1:30 p.m., (Expert: \$250; Sharpshooter: \$100 to Citizens for Gavarone)

Monday, August 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Moundbuilders Country Club, 125 N. 33rd Street, Newark, 10 a.m., (10:00am Registration; 11:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Food and Beverage Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Green Sponsor: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, August 30

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Condados Downtown, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$500 or Suggested Donation: \$250 to Miller for Ohio).

Thursday, August 31

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) & Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Citizens for Bill Beagle and Peterson for Good Government)
Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Willoway Nursery, 4535 Center Rd. (Route 83), Avon, 5:30 p.m., (\$500 Lilac Sponsor - includes 6 tickets; \$400 Hydrangea Sponsor - includes 4 tickets; \$200 Rose Sponsor - includes 2 tickets; \$125 per Couple | \$75 per Person to Committee to Elect Manning).

Sunday, September 10

Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) Pig Roast Clam Bake fundraiser, Heidelberg Distributing Company, 9101 E. Pleasant Valley Road, Independence, 2 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Couple: \$140; Individual: \$75; Dozen Extra Clams: \$15 to Friends of Marlene B. Anielski)

Tuesday, September 12

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Martins Ferry High School, 5000 Ayers Limestone Rd., Martins Ferry
House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Gold Rm., 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000; Sponsor: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Wednesday, September 13

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Plank's Cafè, 743 Parsons Avenue, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Platinum Level - \$2,500; Gold Level - \$1,500; Silver Level - \$1,000; Bronze - \$500 or \$350 per person to Committee for Jim Hughes)
Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Romanchuk for State Rep)

Thursday, September 14

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Pro Football Hall of Fame, 2121 George Halas Dr NW, Canton
Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) golf outing fundraiser, Kirtland Country Club, 39438 Kirtland Road, Willoughby, 10 a.m., (10:00am Brunch, 11:00am Golf. Friends of John Eklund)
Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) fundraiser, Cheney residence, 6988 Greensward Road, New Albany, 6 p.m., (\$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$250 per Attendee to Citizens for Kevin Bacon)

Friday, September 15

Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Tamarac Golf Course, 500 N. Stevick Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000; Tee Sponsor: \$500; Foursome: \$400; Green Sponsor: \$350; Lunch Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$125 to Cupp for State Representative Committee)

Monday, September 18

Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Country Club, 211 Carpenter Rd., Defiance, (The Committee to Elect Cliff Hite)

Tuesday, September 19

Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) fundraiser, Westies Gastropub, 940 S. Front Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Tavia Galonski)

Wednesday, September 20

Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) and Rep. Al Landis (R-Dover) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Brian D. Hill for State Representative and/or Friends for Allen Landis)
Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta) and Rep. Wes Goodman (R-Cardington) fundraiser, The Keep, 50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Andy Thompson for State Representative and/or Friends of Wes Goodman)

Thursday, September 21

Republican Senate Campaign Committee fundraiser, Basil's on Market, 312 N Patterson Boulevard, Dayton, 5:30 p.m., (\$5,000 Event Chair | \$2,500 Event Co-Chair | \$1,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Individual to RSCC)

Monday, September 25

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 16405 U.S. Highway 23, Ashville, 11 a.m., (11:00am Registration and Lunch; 12:00pm Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,500; Green Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$125; Hole Sponsor: \$100 to Friends of Gary Scherer)
Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) golf outing fundraiser, Firestone Country Club, 452 East Warner Road, Akron, 11:30 a.m., (Lunch & Range Time 11:30am. Tee times starting at 1:05pm. \$300 Lunch Only | \$1,000 Lunch and Golf to LaRose for Ohio)

Thursday, September 28

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) shotgun and pig roast fundraiser, Hill'n Dale Club, 3605 Poe Road, Medina, 2 p.m., (2:30-3:00pm - Sign in/Registration/ Meet and greet with Senator Obhof in the Hill'n Dale Lodge; 3:00 pm - Clay Shooting: 5-Stand with Group or Optional Course on your Own, 5:00-6:00pm - Dinner. \$500 Distinguished Expert/Station Sponsor: \$250 Sharp Shooter: \$150 First Class: \$100 Marksman: \$75 Sponsor to Citizens for Obhof)

Friday, September 29

Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser, Belterra, 6301 Kellogg Rd., Cincinnati, 12:30 p.m., (11:30am Park Opens | 12:30pm Lunch | 1:45pm Live Racing Begins. \$1500 Triple Crown | \$1,000 Champion | \$750 Winner's Circle | \$500 Thoroughbred | \$250 Jockey Club | \$100 per Attendee The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Sunday, October 1

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser

Wednesday, October 4

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Fleming residence, 2374 Brixton Road, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Friday, October 13

OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halle Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

Tuesday, October 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

Wednesday, October 18

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Scioto Country Club, 2196 Riverside Dr., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1000, Event Host \$500, \$150 per couple, \$100 per individual to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 19

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (Please make checks payable to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Wednesday, November 29

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740
Worthington Rd., Westerville**

**Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740
Worthington Rd., Westerville**

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Portman, Brown Recommend Two Federal District Court Nominees

Senate Weighs Healthy Ohio Proposal, Looks At Submission Options

Abortion Totals Continued To Decline In 2016, State Reports

Home Care Touted As Alzheimer's Dementia Option; Commerce Publicizes Medical Pot License Applicants

Addiction Recovery Advocates Rally; State Awards Behavioral Health Grants...

High Court Clarifies Record Sealing Law; Buckeye Institute Joins In Public Sector Union Case; Ohio Professor Nominated For Federal Judgeship...

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Event Planner

Sunday, October 1

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (5:15-6:15pm: Welcome Reception & Hall of Fame Tours; 6:15pm-8:15: Program & Dinner; 8:20pm-10:00pm: Live Music with the Four Keeps; 10:00pm: After Party Reception at the M-Bar)

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$25 per Person or \$50 per Family to Peterson for Good Government)

Monday, October 2

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 50th Anniversary events, Canton, (10:30am: Golf Outing Start (registration begins at 8:30am); 1:00pm: First Ladies Library Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 2:00pm: President McKinley Museum Tour (registration begins at 12:00pm); 3:00pm-4:00pm: OLBC Cookout/Reception at the National Historic Clearview Golf Course)

Lobbyist and Employer Activity & Expenditure Reports for the May-August 2017 reporting period are due

OHROC Chairman's Cup golf outing fundraiser, Virtues Golf Club, 1 Long Drive, Nashport, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Host: \$5,000; Event Sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,250; Foursome: \$1,000; Individual Golfer: \$250; Reception Only: \$100 to OHROC)

Tuesday, October 3

Ohio Domestic Violence Network to recognize National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Museum Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 4

Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Muirfield Village Country Club, 8715 Memorial Drive, Dublin, 8:30 a.m., (\$500 each committee to Troy Balderson for State Senate and Citizens for Stephanie Kunze) Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) cigar fundraiser, Lexi's, 100 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Thursday, October 5

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Lane, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. \$1,000 Event Sponsor | \$400 per Team | \$200 Tee Sponsor | \$100 per Golfer to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Louis Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Schilderink residence, 9675 Cunningham Road, Cincinnati, 6 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Sunday, October 8

Sen. Steve Wilson (R-Maineville) family picnic, Warren County Armco Park, 1223 OH-741, Lebanon, 1 p.m.

Republican gubernatorial candidate forum, Genoa Baptist Church, 7562 Lewis Center Rd., Westerville, 7 p.m., (Sponsored by Citizens for Community Values and Salem Media of Ohio)

Tuesday, October 10

Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miamisburg) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Niraj Antani)

Rep. Jeff Rezabek (R-Clayton) and Rep. Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Rezabek and/or Manning for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Matt Huffman for Ohio)

Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus), Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) & Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Lounge, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Kevin Bacon or The Committee to Elect Joe Uecker)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) and Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of Matt Dolan Or Citizens for Hottinger)

Wednesday, October 11

Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Team West)

Rep. Terry Johnson (R-McDermott) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Terry Johnson for State Rep)

Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 12 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Steve Huffman for State Rep)

Rep. Ron Young (R-Leroy Township) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor D, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Friends of Ron Young)

Rep. Tim Ginter (R-Salem) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Former Speaker Bill Batchelder. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Tim Ginter for State Representative)

House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) fundraiser, Elevator Brewery and Draught Haus, 161 N. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor: \$2,500, Host: \$1,000, Guest: \$500, Friend: \$350 to Committee to Elect Fred Strahorn)

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Lexi's on Third, 100 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Chair | \$1,000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Friends of John Eklund)

Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Fleming residence, 2374 Brixton Road, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Event Sponsor | \$1,000 Sponsor | \$500 Host | \$250 Couple | \$200 Individual to Friends of Lou Terhar)

Friday, October 13

OSBA Law & Media Conference, Ohio State Bar Association, 1700 Lake Shore Dr., Columbus, 9:30 a.m., (Registration at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Halle Malcomb, hmalcomb@ohiobar.org)

Tuesday, October 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee pig roast fundraiser, Land Grant Brewery, 424 W. Town St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$10,000 Whole Hog Sponsor | \$5,000 Half Hog Sponsor | \$2,500 Loin Sponsor | \$1000 Bacon Sponsor | \$500 per Attendee to RSCC)

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Michael Sheehy)

Rep. Adam Miller (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Capital Club, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Supporter \$500, Attendee \$250 to Miller for Ohio)

Wednesday, October 18

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Gold Room, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (\$2500 Event Chair | \$1000 Event Host | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 Individual to Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Einstein's, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 7:30 a.m., (Platinum Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor - \$500 or Suggested Contribution - \$350 to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Rep. Steve Arndt (R-Port Clinton) fundraiser, deNOVO, 150 S. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends for Steve Arndt)

Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold Sponsor \$2,500, Silver Sponsor \$1,000, Bronze Sponsor \$500, Supporter \$250 to Kathleen Clyde Committee)

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Dempsey's, 346 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) fundraiser, Scioto Country Club, 2196 Riverside Dr., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Special Guest: Senate President Larry Obhof. Event

Sponsor \$1000, Event Host \$500, \$150 per couple, \$100 per individual to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze)

Thursday, October 19

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, Maumee Bay Brew Pub, 27 Broadway Street, Toledo, 4:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1,000 Event Sponsor; \$500 Lane Sponsor; \$100 per Person; \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

Tuesday, October 24

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Lounge, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$10,000; Sponsor: \$5,000; Host: \$2,500; Patron: \$1,000 to Friends of Ryan Smith)

Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) & Rep. Nick Celebreeze (D-Parma) fundraiser, Gresso's, 961 S. High St., Columbus, 7 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Nicholas J. Celebreeze and Jack Cera for State Representative)

Wednesday, October 25

Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chesterland) and Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to LaTourette for Ohio and/or Citizens for Gavarone)

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) fundraiser, The Lounge at Latitude 41, Renaissance Hotel, 50 North 3rd Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Friend: \$250; Host: \$500; PAC: \$1,000 to Citizens with Fedor)

Thursday, October 26

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Cimenero's Banquet Center, 123 N. Main St., Niles, 5 p.m., (Victory Sponsor \$1,400, Touchdown Sponsor \$700, Field Goal Sponsor \$300, Individual Tickets \$50 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Sunday, October 29

Democratic gubernatorial debate, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus

Ohio Democratic Party state dinner, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus, (Featured speaker: Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe)

Tuesday, October 31

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor on the Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E Livingston Ave, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000,

Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson)

Wednesday, November 1

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) & Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) fundraiser, Einstein's Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Emilia Sykes Campaign and Sykes for Office)

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel and/or Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,000; Sponsor: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Individual: \$350 to Seitz for Ohio and/or Citizens for Blessing)

Rep. Bernadine Kent (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Lincoln Cafe, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent for Ohio)

Thursday, November 2

Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Medina) fundraiser, High & Low Winery, 588 Medina Road, Wadsworth, 6 p.m., (Special Guest President Larry Obhof. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Hambley for House Committee).

Wednesday, November 8

**Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) and Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 Citizens for Duffey and/or Lanese for Ohio)
Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$2,500 Chair | \$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$350 Attendee to The Committee to Elect Cliff Hite)**

Tuesday, November 28

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) fundraiser, Pub Mahone, 31 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Wednesday, November 29

Rep. Michele LePore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)

Ohio House Republican Organizing Committee fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Gold Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to OHROC)

Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Butler for Ohio)

Thursday, November 30

Rep. Derek Merrin (R-Monclova Township) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Derek Merrin)

Tuesday, December 5

Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Special Guest Rep. Ryan Smith. Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Gary Scherer)

Wednesday, December 6

Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500 to Citizens for Schuring Committee)

Wednesday, February 28

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus, 12 p.m.

Monday, June 4

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville

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